

Royston Day Nursery

3 Lumen House, Lumen Road, Royston SG8 7AG



Inspection date	14 August 2018
Previous inspection date	20 September 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not consistently check to see if babies are securely strapped into high chairs during mealtimes.
- The range of resources and activities which staff provide for children lacks excitement and does not encourage children to fully engage in purposeful play.
- At times, staff become too involved in daily routines and do not notice when children are unoccupied.
- The management does not use self-evaluation well enough to identify and address all areas for improvement.

It has the following strengths

- Partnerships with parents are well developed. Staff work effectively alongside parents to share information, which helps to ensure that parents are up to date with their children's learning and development.
- All children, including those who have special educational needs and children who learn English as an additional language, make steady progress in relation to their individual starting points. Staff regularly review and monitor children's achievements to ensure that they are making consistent progress.
- Children have close relationships with staff. They happily greet staff when dropped off in the mornings and seek staff out to share their thoughts and ideas.
- Staff have links with other professionals in the community, which enables them to seek specialist support and guidance when required. Schoolteachers are encouraged to visit children in the nursery, where information is also passed from staff to the teachers.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that all equipment, specifically highchairs, is used corrected to keep babies safe	07/09/2018
ensure that all children have opportunities to fully engage in stimulating, challenging and purposeful activities and experiences that motivate and encourage them to learn through play.	07/09/2018

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- review and develop further the organisation of daily routines to help keep all children engaged in their play and learning
- develop further existing arrangements for self-evaluation to highlight weaknesses in order to improve outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises and observed children playing in their base rooms and the garden.
- The inspector held meetings with the managers and the provider during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, such as incident records, complaint logs, risk assessments, and safeguarding policies and procedures.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment following information we received about and from the provider.

Inspector
Sue Mann

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

Overall, children are cared for in a safe, clean and well-maintained environment. However, at times, staff forget to tighten up the high chair straps to ensure that babies are strapped in safely. There are robust recruitment procedures and ongoing checks to help ensure that all staff are suitable to be working with children. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a clear knowledge of safeguarding and what to do if they believe a child is at risk of harm. Staff meetings, induction procedures and regular supervisions provide staff with opportunities to share any concerns about their key children or request additional training. Access to an online training portal helps staff to develop their professional practice further. The managers understand the situations and events that must be notified to Ofsted and keep an accurate account of any concerns as they arise. They reflect on some aspects of the provision, but have yet to fully identify all weaknesses in practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The quality of teaching varies between the different rooms. Staff working with the toddlers do not provide activities and experiences that help to motivate and inspire children's curiosity. For example, children quickly lost interest in a dough and dinosaurs activity, and wandered off to see what else they could find. Furthermore, in another room, children were not keen to take part in an activity to make dough and pasta spiders. Nevertheless, staff working with the older children provide them with opportunities to create individual artwork using a range of household waste, such as clean bottle tops. Children trawl through a bag of clean, coloured bottle tops to find a range matching the colours of the rainbow. They sing the familiar rainbow song as they carefully stick bottle tops to their pictures and create bottle-top rainbows. Observations and assessments are effectively used to help identify what children need to learn next.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff are deployed effectively around the nursery to help ensure that ratios are met at all times. However, while there are enough staff, at times, they become too involved in daily routines so that they forget to check that children are fully engaged in their play. Staff gather a wide range of information about all children's interests, dislikes and what food they enjoy or are not able to eat. For those children with allergies, staff work alongside parents to create detailed care plans. These are given to staff to follow, along with instructions of what needs to be done should children become unwell. This helps to ensure that all children are cared for according to their individual needs. Children behave well and enjoy regular opportunities to be outside in the fresh air.

Outcomes for children require improvement

The variable quality of teaching does not help children to make the best possible progress. However, older children learn to follow instructions and learn to clear away their plates after meals. Younger children develop their listening skills while taking part in enjoyable singing and sign language sessions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY474157
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10067803
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	106
Number of children on roll	170
Name of registered person	Davidson-Roberts Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP911128
Date of previous inspection	20 September 2016
Telephone number	01763448099

Royston Day Nursery registered in 2014. The nursery employs 26 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7am until 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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