

Dolphin Day Nursery

243 Green Lane, MORDEN, Surrey SM4 6SQ



Inspection date	14 December 2018
Previous inspection date	25 February 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider does not apply an effective safeguarding policy that is consistent with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidance and procedures. She does not know when it is appropriate to respond and act on a child protection concern. This places children at risk of harm.
- The provider does not know what advice and training is available from the Local Safeguarding Children Board or local authority. This does not help her to effectively fulfil her role, such as that of the designated safeguarding lead.
- The provider and staff do not ensure all risks in the nursery bathroom are identified and minimised to keep children safe. This compromises children's welfare.
- Staff do not gather sufficient information to help them recognise and act on any concerns about a child's welfare. This does not effectively safeguard children.
- The provider does not use self-evaluation effectively to help identify key weaknesses in the provision.
- Occasionally, staff do not consistently develop younger children's language development further and encourage them to experience all the resources on offer.

It has the following strengths

- Staff have developed strong partnerships with parents. Parents are well informed of children's progress and work with staff on key aspects of their children's development. For instance, toileting, pencil grip, independence skills and behaviour.
- Children's independence is well supported. Children make choices in their play, are becoming confident in managing their own needs and are developing the skills needed for the next steps in learning.

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
improve the lead practitioner's child protection knowledge and understanding to ensure the correct procedures are followed in the event of a safeguarding concern	21/01/2019
train staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, with particular regard to unexplained bruising and marks	21/01/2019
take account of advice from the Local Safeguarding Children Board or local authority on appropriate safeguarding courses to enable the designated safeguarding lead to effectively fulfil the role	21/01/2019
make sure that risk assessments are effective, so that hazards to children are minimised or removed, with particular regard to the children's bathroom.	21/12/2018

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

- make greater use of opportunities to support the younger children's language during play
- evaluate the resources provided for the younger children to increase children's interest and continued enjoyment in their play
- improve the self-evaluation process to effectively identify the areas for improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had discussions with the provider, staff and parents.
- The inspector observed children and staff interacting together indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector looked at children's progress records and discussed these with key staff.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including staff suitability records, safeguarding documents and curriculum planning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the provider.

Inspector

Denys Rasmussen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. The designated safeguarding lead does not have a secure understanding of when to make a referral to children's social care. The provider has not sought guidance around appropriate safeguarding training for the role of designated safeguarding lead. Consequently, the designated safeguarding lead does not have the knowledge needed to protect children. Staff do not gain appropriate information when children have an injury to help them assess any concerns about their welfare. These weaknesses compromise children's safety and welfare. The provider implements secure vetting procedures to ensure staff's suitability to work with children. Staff receive regular supervisory sessions to monitor their performance and identify training needs to improve teaching. For example, staff recently attended transition training to better support children's move to school. The provider uses parent reviews to support self-evaluation of the provision. However, the process is not effective as it fails to identify key weaknesses relating to risk assessment and child protection.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use good systems of observation to assess children's abilities regularly and accurately. They incorporate children's next steps into the planning along with their interests, this helps provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Interactions between staff and children are supportive, kind, challenging and at the right level. At times, staff do not make the most of opportunities to support younger children's language. Children are confident; they concentrate and persevere, for example, when using the scissors to make cuts in their snowflake. The children show little interest in the sand and water play on offer, however, staff do not seize this opportunity to reflect on the resources available to children. Staff use effective questioning when children discuss their ideas. Because of this, children talk about snowflakes being cold, making big and small ones and discuss wearing warm clothes in the winter. Staff have placed picture scenes where children can see them during snack time. This helps the children to initiate conversations. Staff support children's physical development well. For example, children confidently write Christmas wish lists and label work with their name. Younger children delight in experimenting with noise. For example, they choose objects from the basket, examine them closely then bang them on different areas to make different sounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

The weaknesses in safeguarding compromise children's welfare. The provider does not ensure that effective risk assessments are carried out and staff do not identify and minimise all hazards to children's safety. For example, they do not ensure that prescription lotions and creams in the bathroom are kept out of reach and sight of children, as required. Nonetheless, staff build warm and secure relationships with children. As a result, children are happy, settled, playful and self-assured. Staff respond to children's needs well. For example, they change children's nappies promptly and meet their care needs effectively. Children benefit from healthy snacks and meals and spend time every day in the stimulating garden enjoying the fresh air and physical activity. Children show care and concern for their peers. For example, they comfort their friends with a hug.

Outcomes for children are good

Despite weaknesses in safeguarding, children develop the skills they need to prepare well for their eventual move on to school. Children proudly take on extra responsibilities such as 'bathroom helper' and help their peers. They successfully build their literacy development, such as they practise shoulder exercises and small pincer movements to support writing skills. Children use their imagination, for example, in the garden igloo. They use the garden road to practise on wheeled toys and create artwork in the garden art area. Children learn about nature when looking for bugs in the bughouse and watching the birds use the feeder. Children are happy and have a sense of pride when they display their own work on the nursery wall.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477284
Local authority	Sutton
Inspection number	10075940
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	Thurn, Deborah
Registered person unique reference number	RP515447
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2016
Telephone number	02082881945

Dolphin Day Nursery registered in 2014. It operates from church premises in Morden, within the London Borough of Sutton. The nursery employs seven members of staff; of these, two hold a foundation degree, three hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 and two are unqualified. It is open each weekday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two, three- and four-year-old children and supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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