

Blofield Day Nursery

Fox Lane, Blofield, NORWICH NR13 4LW



Inspection date	18 January 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- The provider has not ensured that people who live on the nursery premises have the required suitability checks.
- Although there are good systems for the supervision of staff, the manager does not make full use of these to raise staff teaching skills to the very highest level.
- On occasion, during larger group activities, staff miss some opportunities to promote the full participation of older children and fully extend their learning.

It has the following strengths

- Children enjoy their time at this welcoming nursery. They settle well and have high levels of confidence. Children proudly talk about their achievements and are keen to show visitors their artistic creations.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Staff regularly talk to parents to find out about children's ongoing interests and discuss their progress. Parents are very happy with the standard of care provided by staff. They talk about the good levels of progress their children make while at the nursery.
- Babies are curious, playful and enjoy exploring their surroundings. They show good levels of emotional well-being and have lots of opportunities to develop skills across all areas of learning.
- Older children have particularly well-planned opportunities to explore media and materials. They show high levels of engagement, for instance, as they competently create their own rockets from a wide range of materials.
- Children are well prepared for the next stage of their learning and school. They are able to do lots of things for themselves and are confident communicators.

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
obtain the relevant checks to confirm the suitability of people who live on the premises.	28/02/2019

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

- extend the existing, good supervision process to focus further on helping staff to raise the quality of teaching to the very highest level
- enhance the effectiveness of group activities, to enable older children to fully participate and contribute ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outside, and assessed the impact of these on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with parents and looked at written feedback to obtain their views.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with staff and held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, such as children's learning records, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with a senior member of staff.

Inspector
Helen Hyett

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

The provider has not ensured that people who live on the premises, who are the owners of the nursery, have the required checks to confirm their suitability. However, the owners do not work directly with the children, and the manager ensures that children are fully supervised by staff at all times. The manager obtains suitability checks for all members of staff and holds regular meetings with them to discuss their roles. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand the signs that may indicate that a child is at risk of harm. The manager has robust systems to monitor children's learning. She reviews children's progress and checks they are meeting expected milestones. The manager works well with staff to check that plans are in place to help any gaps in children's learning to close swiftly. Staff are encouraged to obtain further qualifications and access training to keep their knowledge up to date. Senior staff are able to accurately evaluate the quality of teaching and identify areas for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have effective systems for observing, assessing and tracking children's learning. They notice what children like to do and use age-expected milestones to enable them to plan the next steps in children's learning. Staff plan the environment well to ensure that all children are interested and motivated to learn. Staff working with babies quickly notice what children are interested in and add additional resources to extend this. For instance, babies enjoy exploring a range of real-life materials, such as wooden hoops and blocks, and have lots of fun trying on different hats together. Older children show good social skills, for example, as they work together to excitedly 'clean' the playhouse outside using water and brushes. Staff regularly bring early mathematics and reading skills into activities. They help children to count and identify their names.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The weakness in leadership and management has the potential to affect children's welfare. However, staff remain vigilant and keep children safe. Children behave well. They are encouraged to talk about their feelings and express their views. Staff provide children with lots of time to play outside. They have a range of opportunities to develop their physical skills and explore the natural world. For instance, children enjoy digging and exploring in the outdoor 'mud kitchen', while others play with ride-on cars and climb the steps to the slide. Staff encourage children to try a range of foods at snack and mealtimes. Children show good levels of independence, for example, as they choose what they would like to eat and help themselves to fruit.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress and learn a range of skills for the future. Babies look at books and turn pages. They enjoy small-world play with toy cars and trains, and are developing their communication skills well. Older children are imaginative, determined and confident. They show good levels of persistence when trying to do things for themselves. Children readily share experiences from their home lives with staff. For example, they keenly tell staff about their visits to see the seals at a local beach and enjoy learning about this as part of their 'winter' topic.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY542776
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10089977
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	29
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Hobson Associates Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP542775
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01603715791

Blofield Day Nursery re-registered in 2017. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff, 17 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 to 6, including the manager who holds a qualification at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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