

Little Plums Day Nursery

Bath Street, Mansfield NG18 1BA



Inspection date

17 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		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- The quality of teaching is variable. Staff do not consistently provide experiences that are appropriate to individual children's age and stage of development. As a result, children do not always make good progress in their learning.
- There are too many unnecessary interruptions as children play. This means that they are not given opportunities to become fully engaged in activities and gain the most from their independent learning.
- Staff do not manage children's behaviour consistently. They do not always help children to understand about acceptable ways to behave.

It has the following strengths

- Members of the small and friendly staff team provide a nurturing environment. They establish extremely strong and trusting partnerships with parents and families. Staff are aware of children's special dietary requirements and prepare appropriate meals, helping to meet children's individual needs.
- The experienced manager has a good knowledge of her role and responsibilities. She is a well-organised and reflective practitioner. The manager is ambitious for the setting and knows what she needs to do to improve the provision.
- The manager follows robust recruitment procedures and ensures staff's ongoing suitability to work with children. She ensures staff have a sound understanding of safeguarding matters.

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 quality of teaching across the whole nursery to ensure that all staff understand how to provide challenging activities to meet each child's learning needs	14/02/2019
ensure staff provide sufficient time for children to concentrate and remain deeply involved in their chosen activities and own learning	14/02/2019
ensure that all staff are confident and skilled in managing children's behaviour in a positive and appropriate way.	31/01/2019

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, through recent parent surveys.

Inspector
Sue Riley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

The manager monitors staff performance through working alongside them and holding regular supervision meetings. However, although she has identified defined targets, the improvements to staff practice are not fully embedded. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are clear about the procedures to follow in the event of a safeguarding concern. Staff-to-child ratios are maintained, and staff supervise children well. The staff are suitably qualified to care for children. For example, all staff are first-aid trained and know how to deal with accidents that occur. Staff complete regular safety checks to ensure that children can play safely in the environment. The manager monitors children's assessments records. She identifies some gaps in learning and provides appropriate support for children who are learning English as an additional language.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Teaching is inconsistent, and some activities do not always closely match children's stage of development or their abilities. Some activities that are led or supported by staff are not inspiring enough and do not encourage children to explore or investigate. Also, children are not given sufficient time to become engrossed in their own learning. This is due to staff leaving the children to do other things, so the younger children lose interest and quickly move away. Children's activities are interrupted in the pre-school room when a child needs to use the bathroom, as they all have to go to the bathroom together. Staff gather sufficient information from parents regarding children's starting points in order to fully support children's ongoing progress. They get to know children well through regular observations and accurate assessments of what they can do. Staff extend children's language development as they speak clearly and add new words into their play. This especially helps the children who speak English as an additional language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff provide children with nutritious meals and snacks, and ensure that they have opportunities to exercise and play outside. Children follow hygiene routines and wash their hands at appropriate times. This helps to promote their good health. Children are given gentle reminders to use their 'walking feet' when indoors, helping them learn to keep themselves safe. Staff are polite and courteous to children. However, they do not manage children's behaviour in a positive way. This means that children are not developing positive attitudes towards handling their own behaviour. Established key-person systems result in staff supporting children's emotional well-being effectively.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Weaknesses in teaching do not help children to make good progress. However, children are developing their independence. For example, babies feed themselves and older children put on their own coats ready for play outdoors. Older children solve problems as they balance wooden blocks to make a tall tower. Toddlers begin to develop good social skills during activities, such as role play, as they share the resources. Children develop basic skills that help to prepare them for their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY553716
Local authority	Nottinghamshire County Council
Inspection number	10091929
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	62
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Little Bath's Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP553715
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07816135696

Little Plums Day Nursery registered in 2017. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and one holds level 2. The nursery opens from 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday, except for a week at Christmas and on bank holidays. It 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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