

Sunflowers Pre-School

The Manor Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, MELKSHAM, Wiltshire SN12 7NG



Inspection date	11 June 2019
Previous inspection date	27 April 2017

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		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The management committee does not understand fully its legal responsibilities. The new committee chairperson has failed to provide the required information to enable Ofsted to check that she is suitable for the role.
- Some staff have a weak knowledge and understanding of child protection and wider safeguarding issues. They do not know the correct procedure to follow should they have any concerns when the acting manager is not present.
- The acting manager and staff do not receive effective support to help them keep their knowledge and skills up to date.
- The quality of teaching is inconsistent. Staff caring for younger children do not use their observations and assessments well enough. They do not plan and provide appropriately challenging experiences, to engage younger children and extend their learning. This does not help children to achieve their potential.

It has the following strengths

- The acting manager and staff share relevant information with parents and other professionals. This helps to provide a consistent approach to meet children's needs effectively.
- Staff are enthusiastic, friendly and caring. They provide children with praise and encourage them to keep trying, such as when completing jigsaw puzzles.
- Staff support older children's communication and language skills well. They engage children in conversations and introduce new words to develop their vocabulary.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due date
provide Ofsted with information on the new committee chairperson, to enable the required suitability checks to be carried out	21/06/2019
improve staff knowledge and understanding of child protection and wider safeguarding issues, including the correct procedure to follow should they have any concerns in the manager's absence	21/06/2019
implement an effective programme of staff supervision, to provide support, coaching and training, to raise the quality of teaching to a consistently good level	19/07/2019
improve the quality of teaching for the younger children, to ensure all staff engage with children effectively, to extend their learning with appropriate levels of challenge and promote their emotional well-being.	30/08/2019

Inspection activities

- The inspection was unannounced due to concerns received by Ofsted and considered as part of the risk assessment process.
- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the acting manager, inside and outside.
- The inspector talked to the acting manager, staff, the new committee chairperson, other committee members, parents and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and learning, inside and outside, and conducted a joint observation with the acting manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including staff and committee suitability checks, children's records, staff files, the safeguarding policy and procedures, registers of attendance, accident and medication records, and the complaints record.

Inspector
Karen Allen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is ineffective. The provider fails to notify Ofsted of changes to committee members as required. The new committee chairperson has not completed the appropriate documentation to enable Ofsted to complete checks that she is suitable to undertake the role. Despite this, the chairperson has access to confidential information. For example, she is involved in recruiting new staff and verifying Disclosure and Barring Service checks. However, the acting manager does ensure that committee members are not left unsupervised with children. Some staff have a poor knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. In addition, they do not know what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare in the manager's absence. This puts children's well-being at risk. The management committee fails to monitor staff performance and to support staff to develop their knowledge and skills. The acting manager and staff have not received support to reflect on and improve their practice for several years. The acting manager identifies any gaps in children's development swiftly and seeks early intervention to help children catch up. She has started to track the progress of groups of children, using this information to support learning. She identifies and addresses some staff training needs, although this is not improving the quality of teaching for younger children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff caring for younger children do not ensure children remain focused and engaged in purposeful learning. At times, the atmosphere is quite chaotic. For instance, during circle time, the pace of teaching is too fast for most children to follow. Staff do not target teaching well enough to support children's different abilities and stages in learning. Some children quickly lose interest and become disengaged. However, staff caring for older children extend children's learning effectively and challenge them to solve problems successfully. Children experiment with foam blocks to build and balance. Staff encourage them to count and work out simple calculations, such as one more and one less. Staff support older children well to develop their early literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

The weaknesses in safeguarding practice compromise children's welfare. At times, younger, quieter children are left to wander for long periods without any purposeful interaction. Some vulnerable children do not consistently receive the support they need from staff to help improve outcomes and promote their emotional well-being. Children behave well, and they are kind and respectful to their peers. Older children share, take turns and play cooperatively together. Children benefit from many opportunities to play and learn outside in the fresh air, including enjoying forest school activities. They enjoy being physically active and move with skill and confidence around and on play equipment. Children develop their understanding of healthy food options, such as when making pizzas.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Due to the weaknesses in the quality of teaching, some children do not make the progress of which they are capable. Older children gain some skills in readiness for the

next stage in their learning and the move to school. They learn to be independent, such as dressing themselves and managing their personal hygiene. They become confident communicators. Older children form recognisable letters and some can write their names independently. All children have opportunities to develop their imagination and creative skills, such as through role play and craft activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY430899
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10111965
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	39
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Broughton Road Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522415
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2017
Telephone number	07761444743

Sunflowers Pre-School registered in 2011. It operates from a school site near the centre of Melksham in Wiltshire. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 3.30pm, during school term times. There are 14 members of staff working with the children. Of these, 12 have relevant childcare qualifications at level 3. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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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