

Inspection of Park Hall Forest Preschool

Park Hall Farm, Burma Road, Park Hall, Oswestry SY11 4AS

Inspection date: 16 December 2019

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's welfare and safety are significantly compromised. There are serious concerns about the provider's ability to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the early years foundation stage. This has a significantly negative impact on children's experiences at the pre-school and they are not safe. The provider fails to ensure that staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Safeguarding arrangements are weak. The provider has not appointed a member of staff to take responsibility for safeguarding matters. This compromises children's safety. Risk assessment is poor and children's health and welfare are not prioritised. They are exposed to health risks due to poor hygiene practices at the pre-school. Staff do not maintain an accurate record of children's accidents. Children do not receive the support they need to prepare for the next stage in their learning and school. The monitoring of teaching and learning is ineffective and the key-person system is weak. Staff do not plan activities that target children's individual needs and interests. Staff fail to exchange information with the other settings that children also attend. Children do not receive learning experiences that challenge them and help them to build on what they know and can do. Children have a clear understanding of the behaviour that is expected from them and understand the boundaries that staff set.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The provider does not fulfil her statutory duties or support the daily running of the pre-school. Having received a recent welfare requirement notice relating to safeguarding matters, she has failed to address this. Further weaknesses have been identified and the quality of the provision has declined even further. The provider has not appointed a designated safeguarding lead or a named deputy manager to be responsible in the manager's absence. This means that staff are unsure who holds responsibility for the running of the setting in the manager's absence. The provider fails to support the manager of the pre-school. This has a significantly negative impact on children's safety, welfare and learning experiences.
- Although the manager offers staff some training and coaching, she does not provide effective ongoing support so that all staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. The provider fails to ensure that staff have all the necessary skills to support children's learning and development well.
- The manager has taken some steps to respond to the actions set. However, these have not been effective in raising the quality of the planning for children's learning experiences. Although she has implemented a key person for each child to liaise effectively with parents, staff know very little about children's achievements and learning needs. Staff do not monitor children's progress well. Most children attend another early years setting. Staff do not liaise with them to

exchange information about children's learning and care needs. As a result, gaps in children's learning and development are not identified and addressed. Staff fail to meet the individual learning and development needs of children. Although staff make some effective use of learning opportunities as they arise during children's play, they do not identify how they are going to support each child's learning further. This significantly hinders the progress that children make.

- Hygiene practices are poor and children's health and safety are not prioritised. The provider fails to ensure that staff follow good hygiene routines. Staff expect children to wash their hands in a bowl of dirty, muddy water used by other children, after going to the toilet and before they eat. They leave a bucket of rotting fruit and vegetables in stagnant water in the area where children play. This exposes children to risks to their health. Children are not safe as a result of weaknesses in safeguarding procedures and poor systems for reviewing accidents and injuries.
- Children enjoy the opportunities to be physically active and explore the natural environment. They embrace the adventurous play experiences and learn to assess risks. Children carefully climb up ladders and balance a plank of wood to create their own see-saw.
- Children relate well to staff and each other. They happily involve friends and staff in their play, and develop their social skills. Children gain their independence and attend to their personal-care needs. They confidently explore through their self-chosen play, although due to weaknesses in planning and teaching, the experiences do not offer them sufficient challenge.
- Self-evaluation is ineffective. The provider does not recognise, identify or address weaknesses in teaching and practice. This has a negative impact on children's experiences and welfare at the pre-school.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Although the manager and staff demonstrate an understanding of potential signs that might indicate a child protection concern, there is no member of staff on site who has completed the required training to take lead responsibility for safeguarding. This puts children at risk. Staff make some appropriate risk assessments to minimise hazards to children. However, these are not rigorous. All records relating to accidents, injuries and first aid administered prior to November 2019 have been lost. Therefore, the provider is unable to monitor accidents and injuries in order to manage risks. Staff supervise children effectively as they play in the woodland and move around the farm. That said, it is unclear how staff manage every accident that happens in the outdoors, where children spend much of the day. The manager completes all necessary checks to verify the suitability of new staff and volunteers.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement

action.

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due date
designate a practitioner, who has attended an appropriate child protection course, to take lead responsibility for safeguarding	20/01/2020
ensure that all staff implement effective risk assessment and good hygiene practices to promote the good health and hygiene needs of all children attending the setting	20/01/2020
ensure that staff keep an accurate record of children's injuries and the first aid administered	20/01/2020
ensure there is a named deputy who can take charge in the manager's absence	20/01/2020
implement effective arrangements for the monitoring, support and coaching for staff, to identify and act on weaknesses in practice, to meet children's care needs and improve the quality of teaching and learning	20/01/2020
implement an effective key-person system to ensure staff know children well and support their individual needs, plan accurately for each child's learning, and liaise successfully with the other settings that children attend	20/01/2020

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

	Due date
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use effective systems to observe, assess and monitor children's progress, to accurately plan for their next stage in learning and help them to make progress, and gain the skills needed in preparation for school.	20/01/2020
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Setting details

Unique reference number	EY544693
Local authority	Shropshire
Inspection number	10120876
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	2 to 11
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Ahmad, Rebecca
Registered person unique reference number	RP909528
Telephone number	07791509072
Date of previous inspection	16 August 2019

Information about this early years setting

Park Hall Forest Preschool registered in 2017. The pre-school employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2 and 3, one is qualified at level 6 and one has qualified teacher status. The pre-school opens from Monday to Thursday during term time only. Sessions are from 8am until 5pm. It also operates a holiday club during the school holidays, Monday to Friday from 8am until 5pm. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Anne Dyoss

Inspection activities

- The inspector and manager completed a learning walk across all areas of the setting to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and parents, and interacted with children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the setting's documents. This included evidence about staff's suitability and training.
- A meeting was held between the inspector and the manager.

We carried out this inspection 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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