

Inspection of Blessings Day Care & Nursery

Blessings Day Care & Nursery Ltd, 31 Cornwall Road, Bradford, Yorkshire BD8 7JN

Inspection date:

21 July 2021 - 23 August 2021

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety is not always maintained. Hazards within the environment are not always identified and minimised by staff. On the day of the initial inspection, all children attending were cared for in one room. This resulted in required child-to-space ratios not being maintained and there was insufficient free-play space for children. It also meant that a child was sleeping in part of the role play area within the room. This is not a quiet place for resting and limited other children's access to all resources.

Inconsistencies in staff practice result in children not always being sufficiently challenged and their speaking skills not being promoted effectively. For example, the manager has identified children's communication and language as a key area for staff to promote with every child. Staff chat to children and ask questions as they play. However, children are not consistently encouraged to speak or to extend their language skills. Children behave well, with any minor behavioural issues appropriately managed by staff.

Since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, changes have been made to how children are dropped off and collected from nursery. Parents no longer enter the setting as staff greet them at the door. They comment that their children settle quickly. Staff continue to provide verbal feedback to parents, as well as using the online app to share information with parents. Children are encouraged to use the low-level antibacterial hand dispensers prior to entering the setting. This helps to maintain children's good health.

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

- On the initial day of inspection, staff-to-child ratios were not maintained at the start of the day and children were all grouped together in one room. This compromised children's safety and welfare, and their individual needs were not being met.
- Staff provide food for children regularly throughout the day. However, this is not always nutritionally balanced or of adequate portion size. Portions are sometimes too small, and the lunchtime meal does not include any protein. Therefore, the food provided does not meet widely published nutritious meal recommendations, and does not contribute to a healthy diet.
- Although staff are well qualified, learning opportunities are not rigorously planned to build effectively on children's prior knowledge and skills. Staff often plan 'resources' for children, rather than consistently identifying what skills and knowledge they want children to learn. At other times, when staff do have a clear focus on what they want children to learn, they do not implement this. This means that children's attitudes to learning are not promoted effectively as staff

are not sufficiently challenging them.

- Staff provide babies with opportunities to develop their hand-to-eye coordination through play with spoons and dry ingredients. Babies enjoy playing with toys where they are supported to learn how to pass objects from one hand to another, developing their muscle control.
- Staff plan activities for children to develop their physical skills. Pre-school children play with dough and are encouraged to prod, press and mould their dough as they play. They enjoy using their fingers to pinch the flour and sprinkle this on to their dough, developing small muscle control.
- Staff provide two-to-three-year-old children with opportunities to independently read books. They also sit with the children so that if they prefer a story to be read aloud, staff can do this. Staff understand that this supports children's interest in books as well as promoting their communication and language skills. However, staff regularly leave the television on, which provides continual background noise in this room. This distracts some children and prevents them from focusing on their learning. It also does not provide a good environment for children to be able to listen and to clearly hear how words sound when staff speak to them.
- Supervisions of staff are in place. However, inconsistencies and weaknesses in staff practice are not always identified. For example, the manager confirmed that the television should only be on for specific planned activities. She also incorrectly thought staff were providing babies with two spoons at mealtimes to help them to learn how to feed themselves. Staff are not provided with consistent targeted support and coaching to help them to improve.
- While staff provide a constant dialogue of what children are doing during the activity, children's communication skills are not promoted effectively. When staff ask children questions, they do not always allow children enough time to respond. This means that all children, including those with possible speech delay, are not consistently encouraged to develop and extend their speaking skills.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Risk assessments are not effective in providing a safe environment for children. Staff and management fail to identify potential hazards to children's health and safety. For example, trailing wires are observed in two playrooms, presenting a trip risk to children. Action is only taken to remove these risks when the inspector highlights them to the provider. All staff have access to training and development, including child protection training. They demonstrate that they are aware of the procedure to be followed if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
ensure that staff-to-child ratios and child-to-space ratios are maintained at all times in order to meet the needs of the children	17/09/2021
ensure planning clearly identifies intentions for what children need to learn, building on their prior knowledge and skills	17/09/2021
improve the risk assessment process and take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children are not exposed to risks	17/09/2021
ensure that children receive nutritionally balanced meals of adequate portion size.	17/09/2021

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

- support all staff to understand how to develop and extend children's speaking skills
- keep background noise to a minimum in the two-to-three-year-old room so that children can clearly hear when staff speak to them and so that they do not become distracted in their play
- improve supervision of staff so that inconsistencies and weaknesses in staff practice are identified, and targeted support is provided to help them improve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2516104
Local authority	Bradford
Inspection number	10191812
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	91
Name of registered person	Blessings Day Care & Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2516103
Telephone number	01274 202001
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The nursery registered in 2019 and is situated in the Manningham area of Bradford. There are 11 members of childcare staff employed. All staff hold appropriate qualifications, with most being childcare-related qualifications at level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.45am until 5.30pm. Funded early education is provided for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Elaine McDonnell
Melanie Arnold

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspectors, the manager and provider completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery, to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- A joint observation of an activity was carried out by the inspectors and the nursery manager.
- The inspectors held discussions with staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspectors looked at a sample of the nursery's documents and online records. This included evidence about staff suitability and training.
- A meeting was held between the inspectors, the nursery manager and the provider.
- Following the original inspection on 21 July 2021, a further visit was completed on 23 August 2021, to gather additional evidence.

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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