

Inspection of Clarence House March

72 Station Road, March PE15 8NP

Inspection date:

20 January 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are happy and well cared for in a safe and secure environment. The management team carries out checks to ensure the suitability of staff. However, they were unable to provide evidence of the vetting process that had been completed for all staff on the day of the inspection. This is a requirement of registration. Children show increasing levels of concentration as they settle to their chosen activities. They behave well, showing that they feel at ease in the calm and stimulating environment that staff provide.

Children thoroughly enjoy playing outside. They have good opportunities to build their physical skills as they balance on tricycles and ride on toys and resources. Children take supervised risks as they climb the steps to the slide or ride a tricycle down a gentle slope. They giggle as they gain a little speed. Children accurately count to four as they throw beanbags through hula hoops held up by staff.

Children settle well and form strong bonds with staff. Younger children are confident to seek reassurance should they feel upset, which is promptly given by caring staff. Babies receive lots of encouragement, such as when they start to show an interest in walking. Toddlers excitedly react when they recognise environmental sounds, such as when the refuse lorry drives by.

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

- Managers have systems in place for checking the suitability of staff, including relevant Disclosure and Barring Service checks. However, on the day of the inspection, a record of these could not be provided for all staff. This is a requirement of the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'.
- The management team has established a clear curriculum that helps children build on what they know and can do over time. This is clearly shared with staff, who provide children with good opportunities to practise and repeat new knowledge and skills, so that it is securely remembered.
- Staff know children well. They plan experiences that reflect children's emerging interests to help to engage them in purposeful play. When children build houses and roads with interlocking wooden panels, staff encourage them to reflect on their creation and think how they can develop it. Children share their ideas, take turns and begin to discover the benefits of working with others to achieve their creative aims.
- There have been recent changes in the management of the nursery. However, staff state that they are well supported to fulfil their roles. Staff work well together as a team and are keen to develop their knowledge and skills. They complete online training and share new knowledge at regular staff meetings.
- Staff talk to children as they play and introduce words to help children develop

their understanding and knowledge. Children enjoy listening to stories and sing songs and rhymes with staff. Babies babble to staff and begin to make speech sounds. However, staff do not consistently support all children who speak English as an additional language to communicate effectively.

- Children receive lots of support and encouragement to do things for themselves. They put on their coats and shoes to play outside and know when to wash their hands, such as before eating meals. Older children consider what is similar in the nursery to what they will find at school, such as the outdoor play equipment.
- Parents are positive about the nursery and staff. They feel that their children's needs are met and that their children are happy. Parents state they receive daily updates about their child's day. However, the information they receive about what their child needs to learn next tends to be generic and is not specific to each child.
- Sometimes, staff working with younger children do not always consider children's individual needs. For example, a messy play activity was not well planned, leaving children sitting and waiting for the resources. Children received little direction from staff to support their engagement with the activity.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff receive regular training and information about safeguarding and child protection. They know the possible indicators of child abuse and neglect. Staff know what to do should they have any concerns about a child's welfare or about an adult's conduct in the nursery. They have a good understanding of wider safeguarding issues, such as the risks to children of being exposed to extremist views.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
ensure a record is kept of the vetting processes that have been completed.	31/01/2022

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

- find ways to promote the speaking, listening and understanding skills of children who speak English as an additional language that improves their vocabulary and recognition of words in their home language and in English
- improve the information shared with parents, so that all parents understand how

to support their child's specific ongoing learning at home

- help staff understand how to support younger children during small group activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY500408
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10218435
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Clarence House Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP903550
Telephone number	01354 278081
Date of previous inspection	25 June 2018

Information about this early years setting

Clarence House March registered in 2016. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff, including the manager. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Gail Warnes

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The acting manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector talked to children and staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of group activities with the acting manager.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.

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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