

Inspection of Horwich Day Nursery

Annex Building, Church Street, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6AA

Inspection date: 17 February 2022

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
The quality of education	Inadequate
Behaviour and attitudes	Inadequate
Personal development	Inadequate
Leadership and management	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Older children do not receive the same quality learning experiences as their younger peers. Pre-school children's experiences are not prioritised as the manager concentrates on holiday club children in attendance. Pre-school resources are piled into a corner and roped off, inaccessible to children. There are no planned activities or opportunities to play, so children lounge on sofas or cushions and repeatedly watch several films in the television. They are consumed with the technology on offer in the room. Staff do not consider children's next steps in learning or support these development goals through well-thought-out activities. This reflects in pre-school children's behaviour. They appear subdued and bored. In contrast, babies coo at their key person and giggle as they roll sensory balls back and forth. Toddlers explore their environment, keen to play with their friends.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, parents no longer enter the setting. Some children adapt well. For instance, babies and toddlers quickly get stuck into play and learning. However, pre-school children are met with an empty room with nothing to entice their interests. They quickly gather around their friend's tablets and watch one another play virtual games. There is little meaningful interaction between them and their peers. As these devices are unchecked by staff, they cannot ascertain whether they are suitable for children to use. This compromises children's safety.

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

- The management team do not ensure that the quality of learning is consistent across the nursery. While much thought is put into the curriculum in the younger section of the nursery, pre-school children are left to their own devices. During the inspection, the holiday club was running. The management team make the decision to remove pre-school resources and place emphasis on the needs of the older children. As a result, pre-school children spend hours watching films. They do not engage in purposeful play. Pre-school children cannot access books, toys or learning materials for the majority of the day. They receive a lower standard experience than others in the nursery. This does not support their ongoing development or begin to prepare them for school.
- Pre-school staff offer children very limited quality interactions. This leaves children unengaged and they spend their time zoned out while playing on tablets. In contrast, toddlers and babies are very confident. Babies smile at their key persons and giggle with delight as they join their play. Toddlers invite the inspector to have a tea party with them. They tuck their baby dolls into bed and pour pretend drinks and serve cake. They show they feel secure in their environment and form close relationships with staff.
- The management team fail to recognise weaknesses within the provision. They

are aware of safety issues with technology used within the setting and had removed the devices. However, they quickly returned the devices for use and still did not ensure that they were well safeguarded. This means children are exposed to materials meant for older audiences, such as films and games recommended for children 12-years-old and above. Staff are expected to put children's own devices, such as tablets, in their bags if they bring them to nursery. However, this does not happen in practice. Rather, they allow children to play together on these devices without ascertaining their suitability. This places children at risk.

- Parents speak positively about the nursery. They appreciate the management team. Parents particularly like that their children are 'kept active' with daily outdoor play and group games.
- Children enjoy outdoor play. They run around and play chasing games with their friends. Older children guide their younger peers in ball games. Other children chase each other around and laugh happily, especially when staff begin to join in too. Children eat nutritious, filling meals which they comment are 'yummy'. They learn to wash their hands before meals and after using the bathroom. This helps to support their personal development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The management team identify clear actions for improvement, but they do not follow these through. Staff do not implement in practice the procedures that are intended to keep children safe. Children have access to potentially unsafe and unsuitable content when using devices in the nursery. The premises are not risk assessed effectively. The outdoor area is easily accessible by any passer-by while children play. The management team has not considered the risks posed by this. Although staff demonstrate good safeguarding knowledge, the management team do not follow through with procedures. They do not alert the correct agencies when an allegation is made against a member of staff. This means children are not adequately protected from potential harm.

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 policies and procedures are implemented effectively, particularly with regards to child protection and the safe use of technology	17/03/2022

ensure designated safeguarding leads have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities and the procedures they must follow, particularly if an allegation is made against a member of staff	17/03/2022
ensure devices used within the setting are appropriately safeguarded, in order to protect children from potential harm	17/03/2022
ensure all children access a balanced, well-thought-out curriculum specific to their needs, particularly with regard to pre-school	17/03/2022
ensure risk assessments are thorough, suitable and implemented effectively, particularly with regards to the outdoor environment and the use of technology.	17/03/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY548428
Local authority	Bolton
Inspection number	10225763
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 at time of inspection	0 to 10
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	Dad, Sheen
Registered person unique reference number	RP548427
Telephone number	01204317397
Date of previous inspection	6 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

Horwich Day Nursery registered in 2017 and is located in Horwich, Bolton. The nursery employs 12 members of childcare staff. Of these, one member of staff holds a relevant early years qualification at level 5, seven members of staff have appropriate qualifications at level 2 or above, and four are unqualified. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7am until 6pm, all year round. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Shauneen Wainwright

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.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The 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 quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, was observed and the inspector assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation.
- Parents shared their views of the setting 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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