

# Inspection of Sandfield Park Private Day Nursery

Sandfield Park Day Nursery, Sandfield House, North Drive, Sandfield Park, Liverpool  
L12 1LG

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Inspection date: 2 March 2022

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

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is inadequate**

Children endure emotional distress at this setting. Significant dangers within the environment place children at risk of harm. As a result, we have suspended the provider's registration. Staff are placed under such extreme pressure by management that they cannot meet the needs of children, particularly babies and toddlers. This means that children spend huge portions of their day extremely upset and craving adult attention. Staff try their best but are unable to accommodate all children. Babies and toddlers wander around rooms crying and aimlessly flitting from one resource to the next. They colour their faces with markers and throw toys around in a show of frustration and boredom. Some children need to be held at all times because they feel so insecure in the chaotic environment. Not all children are allocated a key person. This means that staff within the rooms have no understanding of children's individual needs and are unable to support them effectively. This is especially apparent when staff do not know what languages children speak. This is reflected in children's behaviour as they struggle to settle and chant that they want to 'go home'.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, parents now only enter the setting in a limited capacity. Children have adapted well to this and generally enter happily. However, their positive attitudes soon waiver when they are confronted with rooms full of distraught children.

Little interaction is seen between younger children and their peers. This is due to the many distractions in the environment. Pre-school children do form good relationships with one another and with staff. They are excited to show the inspector some of their toys. Children enjoy running around chasing each other outside, and perfecting their skills on balance bicycles. In contrast, babies are not given any opportunities to engage in outdoor play.

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

- The manager is incapable of identifying and rectifying serious issues in the setting. She does not take responsibility for the failings and weaknesses found on inspection. The manager often places blame on her staff, without recognising that they are placed under significant stress within their roles. This practice is not supportive of staff well-being. Staff are expected to operate well above the legal staff-to-child ratios. This places them in an impossible position, where, although they try, they cannot possibly meet the needs of children. Despite knowing that she does not have enough staff, the manager does not take appropriate steps to rectify this. This leaves children unsafe as they are not appropriately supervised.
- Parts of the premises are unclean and not fit for use. This is particularly true for

the milk-preparation kitchen and children's bathrooms. The small kitchen where babies' bottles are prepared is dirty. Cupboards are lined with a build up of dust and grime. Children's bathrooms smell strongly of urine, have grubby floors and little toilet paper. This is not supportive of children's good health.

- Serious hazards within the setting are not identified. Long, slack wires hang on the children's level in the younger children's rooms in the setting, some of which are attached to heavy equipment. Devices with smashed screens and glass bottles are within reach of children. Radiator covers are not always secure, exposing very hot surfaces that children can access. A shelf in the children's bathroom is partly detached from the wall. It is heavy and stacked with resources and cleaning bottles. The shelf sits directly above the baby and toddler changing table. All of these issues pose a significant risk of injury to children.
- An up-to-date record of the attendance of children on the premises is not maintained. Children move from room to room within the setting and this is also not recorded. This means that staff do not always know which children or how many children are in their rooms. As a result, in the case of an emergency evacuation, staff would not have accurate information as to how many children are on the premises. Additionally, several fire exits in the setting are blocked, adding further danger.
- Hygiene procedures are not robust. Staff do not always wash their hands when it is appropriate to do so. Children's hands are also not washed. Due to lack of supervision, children partake in unsanitary play, such as splashing in toilet bowl water. This does not support children's personal development or contribute toward their good health.
- Children's learning and development is not well supported. Staff are too overwhelmed to provide a high-quality, well-thought-out curriculum. Little purposeful play happens in the setting. The exception is seen in the pre-school. Children in this room are often engaged in play with staff and their peers. They play with construction toys and enjoy a calm, organised environment.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The manager is not capable of fulfilling her role as designated safeguarding lead. She is aware of the correct procedures to follow, but this does not happen in practice. She does not notify the correct agencies when allegations are made against members of staff. Staff have good safeguarding knowledge. However, they do not follow whistle-blowing procedures when they identify that children are at risk of harm in the setting. The manager does not ensure that the setting is risk assessed effectively. This means that children are exposed to hazards that have the potential to cause significant danger or harm, such as unsafe furniture, strangulation hazards and broken equipment. Staff are overwhelmed within their roles due to failures within management. This means that they do not quickly identify safeguarding risks, such as parents using their mobile phones in the setting.

## 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:**

	<b>Due date</b>
ensure that fire exits are clear and unobstructed so that children have a clear means of escape in the event of an emergency	21/03/2022
ensure that the premises are clean and fit for use, particularly with respect to the milk-preparation kitchen and children's bathrooms	21/03/2022
ensure that risk assessment procedures are secure enough to identify hazards in the environment that pose a serious risk to children, such as heavy falling shelves, trailing wires, broken glass and blocked fire exits	21/03/2022
ensure that all children are allocated a key person who understands their individual needs and supports their emotional health and development	21/03/2022
ensure that staff-to-child ratios are met in order to meet the needs of children	21/03/2022
ensure that staff are deployed effectively to meet the needs of all children and to help ensure that children are not placed at risk, for instance by playing with water in toilet bowls	21/03/2022
ensure that hygiene procedures are robustly implemented in order to reduce the risk of germs spreading and to help protect children's health, particularly with regards to staff washing hands, clean food preparation areas, and children washing hands	21/03/2022

ensure that all children, including babies, access the outdoor environment every day	21/03/2022
ensure that the manager is capable of fulfilling their role and responsibilities, particularly by identifying and addressing serious weaknesses within the nursery	21/03/2022
ensure that an accurate record of children's attendance is kept at all times, in order for staff to know how many children are present in the event of an emergency evacuation	21/03/2022
ensure that policies and procedures are implemented consistently and effectively, especially with regards to risk assessment and child protection	21/03/2022
ensure that all staff have an understanding of whistle-blowing procedures and how to use them if they feel children are at risk of harm	21/03/2022
ensure that designated safeguarding leads have a robust understanding of their roles and responsibilities, including the correct procedures to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff	21/03/2022
ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to support staff, in order to create an environment that reinforces a culture of teamwork and supports staff well-being.	21/03/2022

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

	<b>Due date</b>
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<p>ensure that a well-thought-out curriculum, which meets the varying needs of children, is implemented in order to support children's ongoing development.</p>	<p>21/03/2022</p>
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## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	322416
<b>Local authority</b>	Liverpool
<b>Inspection number</b>	10229783
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	0 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	195
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	175
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Sandfield Park Private Day Nursery Limited
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP519518
<b>Telephone number</b>	0151 228 4040
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	6 June 2019

## Information about this early years setting

Sandfield Park Private Day Nursery registered in 2000. The nursery employs 23 members of childcare staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 10 hold a level 3 qualification, five hold level 6, and four are unqualified. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 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.
- Staff spoke to the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection and she took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the manager about the leadership and management of the setting.

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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