

# Inspection of Lowdham Preschool

Village Hall, Main Street, Lowdham, NOTTINGHAM NG14 7BD

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Inspection date:

10 March 2022

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## **Overall effectiveness**

## **Inadequate**

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The quality of education

**Requires improvement**

Behaviour and attitudes

**Requires improvement**

Personal development

**Inadequate**

Leadership and management

**Inadequate**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

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

### The provision is inadequate

Children are not safe when they play outside. Children are at risk of injuring themselves, as staff do not implement or follow pre-school risk assessments. Children climb onto wooden logs and reach a rope, which is tied between two trees. They hold the rope under their neck and armpits as they swing. Staff are not available to support children to safely take part in this activity. As a result, children have accidents. Furthermore, children are potentially at risk because the provider has not supplied Ofsted with information about individuals involved in the running of the pre-school.

Some children do not benefit from the time they spend together as a whole group. Staff use registration time to widen children's vocabulary as they introduce new words. However, staff fail to make this opportunity exciting and engaging for all children. Some children lose interest and move away from the group to find other toys to play with. Children do not receive consistent messages about what is being asked of them. For example, staff ask children to sit on the floor. However, some children are then invited to sit on the knee of staff who are sitting on chairs. Despite this, most children are happy and confident learners. They are keen to show visitors their artwork and say, 'I have made this for you.'

Children are not encouraged by staff to be independent when managing their own care needs. For example, staff wipe children's noses rather than allowing children the chance to have a go. Furthermore, children do not see good hygiene practices. Staff do not wash their hands after wiping a child's nose. They then go on to help other children open food from their lunch box.

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

- The manager does not ensure that staff are following health and safety procedures. Children are not appropriately supervised by staff when they play on equipment outside. As a result, children have accidents which are preventable. Staff are not on hand to show children how to use the play equipment safely.
- The provider does not respond to requests from Ofsted for information required to carry out suitability checks. Children are at risk because Ofsted have been unable to determine the suitability of those involved in running the pre-school. These unchecked individuals are involved in staff recruitment and provide support to staff and the manager in relation to safeguarding.
- The manager has organised for a language teacher to visit the pre-school and run a French class with all children. Some children count in French with the teacher. This introduces knowledge that older children will continue to build on at school. However, this class is not appropriate for all children. Younger children and children who speak English as an additional language are bored as

the class is too challenging for them. They become restless and turn their backs towards the teacher.

- Staff do not role model what they are asking children to do. Staff encourage children to be quiet during group times. Yet, some staff have conversations with small groups of children during this time. This confuses children and does not help them understand expectations for their behaviour.
- Staff encourage children to tidy away their toys once they have finished playing. However, not all children respond to these requests. Staff go on to praise all children for accomplishing tasks that they have not done. For example, staff ask children to put their hands in the air before they tidy up. Not all children follow this instruction. Despite this, staff say, 'well done' and give praise. This gives children mixed messages and does not help them understand that it is important to follow instructions.
- Staff are too quick to attend to children who have a dirty nose. They do not give children the opportunity to develop the skills needed to manage their own personal needs. As staff's time is taken up by doing this, they are distracted from activities with other children. This interrupts the learning experiences for these other children.
- Staff engage children in conversation while they explore real fruit and vegetables together. Children and staff talk about lemon juice and how this will sting if it gets in an eye. Most children focus and concentrate on activities. However, not all children are engaged in activities with good levels of concentration. Some children move between areas of the room without a purpose to their play. Staff do not notice these children or respond to them in a timely manner.
- Children are encouraged by staff to develop their problem-solving skills. Children carry water from one area of the garden to another in a bucket. They know that the water is making their buckets heavy. Children ask staff for help to carry their buckets. Children play alongside each other well as they wash a ride-on car. They discuss with staff how they can dry the car and then find a solution together.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Risk assessments are not followed. Staff do not supervise children adequately. As a result, children are exposed to unnecessary risks when they play outside. The provider fails to provide Ofsted with information about changes to the committee in a timely manner. This means suitability checks are not carried out for people who run the pre-school. This potentially puts children's safety at risk. Despite this, staff know what to do when they have a concern about a child's safety at home or in the community. The manager has a robust procedure in place to recruit staff. The manager checks staff's ongoing suitability to work with children.

## 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 that risk assessments, specifically for outside, are followed by all staff	24/03/2022
make sure that staff give adequate supervision to children when they play on equipment, specifically outside, so they are protected from unnecessary risk	24/03/2022
provide correct information to Ofsted in a timely manner about changes to individuals who are involved in running the pre-school	24/03/2022
improve group time experiences, so that these are appropriate and enjoyable for the individual needs and development of all children	07/04/2022
ensure that staff give consistent messages that help children follow instructions	07/04/2022
make sure that staff give children opportunities to manage their personal care needs independently and that staff model good hygiene practices, specifically around nose wiping	24/03/2022
ensure that staff recognise and respond appropriately when children are not engaged in learning.	07/04/2022

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	253347
<b>Local authority</b>	Nottinghamshire County Council
<b>Inspection number</b>	10138652
<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>	Sessional day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	2 to
<b>Total number of places</b>	52
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	41
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Lowdham Pre-School Committee
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP907864
<b>Telephone number</b>	07432 775 965
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	22 October 2015

## Information about this early years setting

Lowdham Preschool is located in Lowdham, Nottingham and was registered in 1974. The pre-school employs 11 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications between levels 3 to 6. The pre-school opens from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. A lunch club is provided every day from 12pm until 1pm. A breakfast club is run from 7.30am until 9am. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Charlotte Whalley

## 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 manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children showed the inspector what they were doing during the inspection.
- 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 joint observations of a water play activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to three parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to two committee members during the inspection to understand their roles.
- The inspector spoke to staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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