

Inspection of Little Legs Nursery

6 Rochford Road, Southend-On-Sea SS2 6SP

Inspection date: 14 March 2022

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

Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children are not kept safe. The provider, manager and staff do not take action to reduce or minimise risks to children's safety. For example, there is a large, wooden mirror in the pre-school room that is not secured to the wall and, therefore, is unstable. Children knock the mirror when running past. This impacts on their safety and welfare.

The environment for pre-school children and toddlers is not adequately stimulating or engaging. The lack of resources to support children's interests impacts on their behaviour and enjoyment of activities. For example, in the garden, there are only two spatulas and a few other toys, such as a plastic toy cement mixer and truck. This leads to children squabbling. The small toddler room is cluttered with numerous tables and other equipment around the edge of the room. This impacts on children's ability to move freely around the room and access the activities that are available. Children do not experience an engaging learning environment. For example, they approach the messy room to paint, the only activity on offer. Children see there is no water available, so scrape at the paint tray to try and get some paint out. They quickly lose interest when this does not work.

Babies settle well and develop the key skills needed for the next stage in their learning. Staff repeat their babbles and encourage them to feed themselves independently. Babies smile with pride when staff praise them for their achievements. Children do enjoy staff reading stories to them; staff use puppets to bring the story to life. Older children are confident to approach visitors and happily engage in conversation about their home lives.

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

- The provider has failed to check that the actions set for risk assessment at the last inspection have been addressed. The provider and manager have identified the mirror in the pre-school room as a risk. However, they have not taken action to make it safe for children. Staff's daily checks of the premises are also ineffective. They have also not identified, or taken action to address, this risk to children's safety.
- The provider and manager identify some weaknesses in staff practice but they do not take action to address them. For example, they are aware that the toddler room is cluttered and impacting on children's access to resources and enjoyment. However, they have not ensured that action is taken to address this. Consequently, not all children make good progress.
- The manager has an understanding of the curriculum. She knows how to use this to support children to make good progress. However, staff do not consistently implement this into practice. As a result, not all children receive the

quality interactions and experiences they need to be ready for the next stage in their learning. For example, the manager knows the value of staff not interrupting children's play and learning when going into the garden from indoors. This is not followed through by staff. Often, children are moved into the garden away from resources based around their needs or interests. As a result, any learning children are engaged in, is disrupted.

- Staff practice is not reviewed or monitored well enough. Staff in the toddler room and pre-school room do not have a good understanding of how children learn. They do not adapt their practice to the different capabilities of children or provide them with challenge in their learning. Staff do not support children to learn things independently. For example, staff take the bowl of play dough away from children and mix it for them. Children watch, with no resources for them to experience this for themselves. This impacts on children's ability to make good progress.
- Parents are updated on their children's care needs and the activities they have taken part in each day. Parents comment that they are satisfied with the care staff provide.
- Some staff in the pre-school room support children's learning. Children engage in a bingo game where they learn to recognise numbers. Pre-school children also learn to recognise letters and their names on their coat pegs.
- Staff in the baby room communicate well about children's needs and interests. They have a secure understanding of babies' levels of development and plan effectively for their progress. Staff are sensitive to babies' emotional needs. They reassure them and give words to the emotions they might be feeling.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The provider, manager and staff fail to identify, or take action to address, risks in the nursery to children's safety. However, staff can recognise the signs and symptoms of child abuse and know the action to take if they have a concern. Staff also have a secure knowledge of wider safeguarding issues, such as local drug concerns and extremism. All staff complete regular safeguarding training that keeps their knowledge and skills up to date. The provider has safe recruitment procedures in place. For example, they regularly ask staff questions relating to their ongoing suitability to ensure they remain suitable to work with children.

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:

	Due date
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ensure that the provider, manager and staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, including how to identify and manage risks and how to support children's learning and development effectively	19/04/2022
organise the premises in a way that meets the needs of all children	19/04/2022
ensure that risk assessments are thorough and identify and manage all risks to children's safety effectively.	19/04/2022

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

	Due date
consider the needs, interests and development of each child and use this information to plan challenging and enjoyable learning experiences	19/04/2022
develop staff's knowledge and understanding of how children learn to ensure that they fully understand how to engage and stimulate children's play and learning.	19/04/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY472435
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10209026
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 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Little Legs Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP531974
Telephone number	01702808989
Date of previous inspection	14 September 2021

Information about this early years setting

Little Legs Nursery registered in 2013. The nursery employs 10 childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are between 7.30am and 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Daniella Adams

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this is having on children's learning.
- Staff and children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The manager and the inspector carried out two joint observations of activities.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.

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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