

Inspection of Little Millers Day Nursery and Out of School Club

Mansfield Road, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 4JL

Inspection date:

30 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

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

The provider is not meeting safeguarding and welfare requirements. Children's safety is not assured because staff do not have secure knowledge and understanding of the 'Prevent' duty. This means that staff may not identify when children or their families are at risk of being drawn into extreme and radicalised behaviour. Children develop trusting relationships with the staff, who take the time to understand children's care needs. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their social skills and prepare them well for their next steps. However, some aspects of children's learning are less well developed. The opportunities to promote children's physical development are not consistently effective.

Older children develop their independence through role play activities, such as putting on school uniform. They develop the skills that they need to get dressed, including fastening buttons. Children develop a love for books. They excitedly explain that the writing on the back of a book is called 'the blurb' and describes the story. Younger children enjoy reading books from home with staff, individually and as part of group time. Books about school help older children become familiar with events that are going to happen in their lives. Children are confident learners. They are happy to approach visitors and discuss their favourite colours. They feel valued as their contributions are celebrated. However, children sometimes lose focus when activities are less well planned.

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

- The manager has not put systems in place to ensure that safeguarding is effective in the setting. Staff have completed some relevant training. However, the manager has not checked that staff understand this training. Staff do not know the signs to look out for which would suggest that a child is being exposed to extremist views.
- Staff provide some activities to support children's physical development. However, they restrict the use of some equipment. For example, the manager has purchased a new climbing frame for young children to use. There is a risk assessment in place for the climbing frame. Staff keep the climbing frame covered and it is only available for children to use at specific times of the day. This means that young children do not have the maximum opportunity to develop their physical skills.
- Staff intend for children to develop their hand control as they learn to use tools to create a flower picture. Despite this, staff give children pre-cut petal shapes. This means that children cannot practise using scissors to cut shapes out for themselves. Therefore, children have limited opportunity to develop the skills they need to use tools, such as scissors, successfully.
- Overall, children are developing their communication and language skills.

Parents say that their children have learned sign language from attending the setting. A language lead shares ideas for staff to use with children to develop their vocabulary. Children name items from a 'talk box', such as 'pig' and 'cow'. However, older children are not given enough challenge during these activities. These children complete the task with ease. Some children are distracted during these activities by damaged items in the box. They lose focus on the task.

- Staff recognise that some children spend a lot of their time at the setting. They offer children opportunities that broaden their experiences. Staff take children to a local supermarket to buy ingredients for baking. Children use these ingredients to make a cake when they return to the setting. Staff take children to the fish counter. Children learn about the job of a fishmonger. These activities develop children's understanding of the world around them.
- Children feel emotionally secure in the company of all staff. Sometimes, children are looked after by different staff when their usual key person is absent. Children are not disadvantaged by this. These staff form good relationships with all children. They know relevant information about children's learning and development, which they use to provide children with consistency of care. Babies settle into the setting through visits with their parents. During these times, staff ask parents about their babies' care routines. They use this information to provide care which mirrors what children experience at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Children's safety and welfare are compromised because staff lack knowledge and understanding around some safeguarding topics. Staff know the signs to look out for which indicate a child is at risk of abuse, but not if they are being exposed to radicalised behaviours. Staff know what to do if they have a safeguarding concern or if they are concerned about the conduct of a colleague. Staff are vetted to do their roles, and their ongoing suitability is checked. Children play in a safe, risk-free and clean environment.

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 staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection, with specific regard to the 'Prevent' duty guidance.	25/04/2022

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

- maximise opportunities for children of all ages to develop their physical skills
- extend children's development further by giving appropriate challenge during communication and language focused activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	253260
Local authority	Nottinghamshire County Council
Inspection number	10138535
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	52
Number of children on roll	82
Name of registered person	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP907529
Telephone number	01623 622515 ex 3885
Date of previous inspection	5 June 2015

Information about this early years setting

Little Millers Day Nursery and Out of School Club registered in 2000. The nursery employs 22 members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6, one holds a qualification at level 4 and 19 hold qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. It closes for one week at Christmas and all public bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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, deputy manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children confidently communicated with the inspector 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 group activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to three parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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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