

Inspection of La Petite Academy Ltd

10-12 Highfield Road, Littleover, DERBY DE23 1DG

Inspection date:

8 June 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety is not assured because leaders do not check that staff can recognise or manage child protection concerns. Furthermore, they do not always manage information appropriately.

Children demonstrate the motivation to learn and high levels of engagement in activities. Children in the pre-school join in with a group game. They listen carefully to the rules of the game, count the correct number of steps and squeal with delight as they chase each other. As they repeat the game, they recall where they need to start. Staff interact with the children to extend their counting skills. Other children collaborate and cooperate in their self-chosen play for long periods of time.

Babies show a strong interest in books. They choose a book, hold it comfortably with two hands and turn the pages. They listen with interest as staff read the story or talk to them about the pictures. They babble in response and attempt to copy animal sounds and names.

Staff skilfully support children to understand the expectations and develop positive relationships with each other. They use age-appropriate explanations and emotion cards to help children to understand the impact. Children behave really well and have lovely friendships with each other.

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

- Managers do not demonstrate that they focus well enough on the safeguarding and welfare requirements to ensure they are met. Although staff undertake training in child protection, managers do not ensure that staff are able to recognise possible signs of abuse and how to manage safeguarding concerns. There has been a repeat data breach and managers have failed to notify Ofsted of two significant events. This compromises children's safety.
- Managers demonstrate a strong understanding of how to plan and deliver an ambitious curriculum to support children's learning. They ensure that staff are clear on the curriculum goals. All staff receive good-quality training in communication and language to support children's development. Staff continually sing to the children using high levels of enthusiasm and good articulation, and this encourages and sustains children's engagement. Children in the toddler room join in with the words and actions to familiar songs. Pre-school children lead their own singing session and make suggestions for the next verse of the song that they are singing.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, as well as those that are at risk of delay in their learning, are very well supported. The knowledgeable and experienced coordinator uses a range of useful monitoring tools to identify

children's specific support needs. Her proactive approach to working in partnership with parents and external professionals ensures that there is good consistency of support. The coordinator also makes very good use of additional funding to give children targeted support to help them to catch up in their learning.

- Staff support children's development well. For example, they gather information from parents and carers so they can plan activities that build on children's interests or experiences. They encourage children to manage risks when they are using play equipment. Children show good balance as they walk along planks. Staff encourage children to think about the best way to move across an obstacle course. Children use their problem-solving skills as they build the obstacle course. However, on occasion, staff do not build on what children already know to help them to make better progress. For example, as children repeat the balancing activity, staff do not encourage them to attempt to do more of it by themselves.
- Well-being is well promoted across the nursery. Staff provide activities that help children to recognise how they are unique. Children are given very good support to settle. Staff skilfully use a range of techniques to distract children who are new or upset. Children in all age groups demonstrate that they are very comfortable. Staff express how well supported they feel in their role and how they enjoy working at the nursery.
- Managers make good use of training relating to learning and development to inform curriculum planning and support staff practice. Following recent training in mathematics, there is a clear focus on supporting children to develop their spatial awareness. This helps children to develop some of the skills they will need for their future learning. However, although there are regular reviews of staff performance, managers are not yet making the best use of the information gathered to inform what individual staff could improve on.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Not all staff have a suitable understanding of how to recognise different types of abuse and where to refer concerns. Leaders have not established effective procedures to ensure that information is only shared with those that have a right to see it. Furthermore, they have not made sure they are fully familiar with the requirement to notify Ofsted of changes. The premises are safe and secure. Staff understand and follow the nursery procedure to monitor accidents that children have at home to ensure their safety. There are thorough checks to establish the suitability of adults working 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
ensure that staff have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues and know where to refer concerns	24/06/2022
ensure there are effective systems in place to store and handle information securely.	22/07/2022

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

- support staff to develop their interactions with children so that they consistently extend their learning and help them to make the best possible progress
- make better use of information gathered through the performance management of staff to drive further improvements in the quality of education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206109
Local authority	Derby
Inspection number	10238029
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 11
Total number of places	76
Number of children on roll	82
Name of registered person	La Petite Academy Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP521894
Telephone number	01332 774413
Date of previous inspection	30 June 2021

Information about this early years setting

La Petite Academy Ltd registered in 1995 and is located in Derby. The nursery opens each weekday, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold a recognised early years qualification. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Justine Ellaway

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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 setting.
- The inspector completed a learning walk. She observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed joint observations with the deputy and assistant manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the deputy and assistant manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector discussed the procedures for monitoring and evaluation, and the priorities for improvement.

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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