

Inspection of Aktiva Nurseries, Oakfield

The Dalby Community Building, Siding Road, Broughton, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire HP22 7AY

Inspection date: 23 June 2022

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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's safety is compromised. The provider has not carried out the required risk assessments to keep children safe. For example, broken tiles on the step into the garden are sharp and could cause injury to children as they step into the garden. Staff deployment is not effective and leaves the youngest children in the sole care of the least-experienced, unqualified staff. At times, poor supervision of children puts them at risk. For example, staff are not aware of the guidance on choking and do not adequately supervise children at mealtimes.

Overall, children are happy and settled in the nursery. Parents and children are kindly welcomed by the friendly staff team. Children are confident and eagerly engage in a range of activities. They particularly enjoy exploring size and length. For example, they join together multi-link cubes and measure how long they are.

Children listen to staff, and their behaviour is generally good. They follow instructions and share resources with their friends. They build positive relationships with their peers and enjoy sharing ideas and games with their friends. Children engage positively with staff and enjoy talking about what they are doing. For example, children seek out their key person to show them the artwork they are making at the craft table. Nearly all children make good progress, particularly those with special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

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

- Risk assessments are ineffective in the premises and this puts children at risk of harm. For example, there is broken equipment in the garden and staples sticking out of wooden pallets at face height of the children. This could cause injury to the children.
- The manager does not effectively deploy staff, leaving inexperienced staff to care for the youngest children. Additionally, she does not ensure that staff deploy themselves to best meet the needs of the youngest children. This impacts on the safety of children and staff's ability to react in the event of an emergency.
- Staff do not supervise children adequately, particularly at mealtimes. For example, staff get up from the table to complete unnecessary tasks, leaving groups of young children alone while eating. This places them at risk. Additionally, staff do not follow food guidance on the risks of choking. As such, meals are served with large chunks of meat and this poses a choking hazard.
- Staff provide good opportunities for children to build on what they know and extend their learning. However, at times, staff do not provide enough challenge for the oldest children. For example, children engage in playing with insert

puzzles that do not hold children's attention and promote critical thinking.

- Partnerships with parents are very well established and maintained. Parents comment positively on the level of care that their children receive and regular feedback provided on their children's progress. They are able to speak to any member of staff regarding their child and feel assured that children's needs are well met.
- Leaders and managers support staff well with regular supervisions to review practice. Staff have opportunities to extend their knowledge with an online training tool that they can access to support their professional development, knowledge and skills.
- Staff know the children well and talk confidently about children's progress and next steps in learning. This includes lunch-cover staff who work for short periods of time in the day. For example, staff identify the needs of the children and their next steps in learning. They share information and build on the learning that children have engaged in throughout the morning.
- Children engage in a variety of activities inside and outside and make choices of where they would like to play. For example, they ride wheeled vehicles and share books with staff. The outdoor space is small and so children enjoy regular walks around the local community and park. Consequently, this supports their physical skills and awareness of the world around them.
- The manager works well with other settings and agencies for the benefit of the children. For example, she works with the local school and pre-school, taking children to visit the outdoor space to ensure they are familiar with these environments. This supports positive transitions for children for their next stage in learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The provider fails to ensure that daily and ongoing risk assessments are carried out to ensure the safety of the children within the nursery. Although children's safety is not adequately assured, staff have a secure knowledge of signs and indicators of abuse. They recognise potential risks for children and are able to make appropriate, timely referrals to agencies. For example, staff refer concerns to the designated safeguarding officers and keep informative records of concerns. Staff receive training on safeguarding children and have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities in protecting children from risk of abuse. All staff are aware of the whistle-blowing policy and procedures to follow should they have concerns regarding the conduct of the manager and colleagues.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
improve risk assessments to ensure the premises are safe for the children	22/07/2022
ensure appropriate supervision of children at mealtimes and that the food provided is safe	22/07/2022
review and evaluate staff deployment and communications.	22/07/2022

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

- extend further the support for staff working with older children to enhance their understanding of how to provide children with even greater challenge in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2535490
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	10230142
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	51
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	Aktiva Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP545594
Telephone number	02035518909
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2022

Information about this early years setting

Aktiva Nurseries, Oakfield registered in 2019. It operates from the Dalby community building located on the Kingsbrook housing development in the Oakfield area of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. It is open from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The provider employs 17 members of staff, of whom nine hold appropriate qualifications at level 2 or level 3. The provider is in receipt of funding to provide early education to children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lisa Robinson

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the manager and discussed the curriculum intent.
- The manager and inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector considered the view of parents.
- Observation of children's play and learning was carried out by the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to a number of staff to assess their safeguarding knowledge.
- The inspector held a leadership and management meeting with the manager.

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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