

Inspection of Little Moors Farm Nursery

Moors Farm Station Road, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7YJ

Inspection date:

6 July 2022 - 18 July 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

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

There are weaknesses in the safeguarding practices at the nursery. Managers and staff acting as the designated lead practitioner for safeguarding do not follow the correct procedure when concerns are raised about children's safety and welfare. All children are allocated a key person. However, when children's key persons are absent, the manager does not ensure that information about children's specific individual needs is understood by the covering key person. This means that individual children's needs are not always met.

Despite this, children are happy and settled at this welcoming nursery. They arrive confidently, happily separating from their parents and quickly settling to an activity of their choice. Children have strong emotional attachments to the kind and caring staff. Children receive cuddles and comfort when needed. Staff have high expectations of what children can achieve. Children make good progress in their learning. This includes children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Babies enjoy sitting with staff, listening to a familiar story and singing rhymes. They confidently join in, pointing to the pictures in the book and moving their body to the actions of the rhyme. Toddlers enjoy using different tools to make marks in salt. Children use their imaginations as they dress up and pretend they are cats moving around the room. Pre-school children enjoy trips to the forest school area where they swing on rope swings and climb on rope ladders. Children play together cooperatively. They learn to take turns and share resources. For example, they play well during pretend play in the home corner as they take on different roles.

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

- Leaders and staff fail to respond to child protection concerns correctly. Although the nursery has a suitable policy for dealing with such concerns, this is not followed. This compromises children's safety and well-being.
- The key-person system is not effective. Staff covering other staff's absence are not given the necessary information about children to ensure they are effectively able to care for their individual needs.
- The quality of teaching is good. Staff know children's educational needs well and plan appropriate activities that they know will interest and challenge children. They have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. They make regular observations of children and use these to plan realistic and appropriate next steps for children's learning.
- Children's communication and language skills are developing well. Staff engage children in meaningful conversations throughout the day. Children confidently chat to visitors and include them in their play. Children are developing a love for

books. Staff enthusiastically read stories, changing the tone of their voice to excite and engage children.

- Parents spoken to on the day of inspection said that they are happy with the nursery and commented how much their children enjoy attending. They value how much fresh air and exercise the children get daily. Parents say that staff are 'fantastic'. The manager shares regular information with most parents. Information about the plans for toddlers and pre-school children's learning is shared on a weekly basis. This helps parents extend children's learning at home. Opportunities for younger children's parents to build on their children's learning at home are more limited.
- Staff plan the learning environment well. This helps to motivate and inspire children to become involved in their learning. Children show great interest in the good range of activities and experience on offer. However, some parts of the daily routine, such as when children are moving between rooms and the outdoor space, could be better organised to keep children fully engaged.
- Staff swiftly identify children who may be working below expectations. This, along with good partnership working with other professionals, means that children's educational needs are well met and children with SEND are successfully integrated into the nursery environment.
- The nursery is situated on a working farm. Children have daily opportunities to go on walks around the farm, visiting the various animals. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they take managed risks when using the climbing wall and climbing on the gates to see into the next field. Staff give children gentle reminders, such as reminding them to use two hands when climbing and not climbing too high.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Managers and staff have a poor understanding of safeguarding and child protection procedures. Although they have an appropriate policy in place, they do not take appropriate action when concerns about children's safety and welfare are raised. This means children are not safeguarded effectively. Having said this, managers and staff undertake robust risk assessments to ensure any safety risks in the nursery are identified and removed. Staff supervise children well. The manager follows robust recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitable 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
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improve managers' and staff's knowledge and understanding of the correct procedure to follow in the event of a child protection concern being raised	06/09/2022
improve key-person arrangements, to ensure information about children's care needs is shared so new key persons have an accurate understanding of children's needs and are able to meet them effectively.	06/09/2022

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

- enhance the existing good partnerships with the younger children's parents so that they are all routinely supported to continue to build on their children's learning at home
- review the organisation of some daily routines, particularly when children are moving between shared spaces, to keep children fully engaged.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2560321
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	10233478
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	Kirby, Julia
Registered person unique reference number	2560320
Telephone number	07932876450
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Moors Farm Nursery registered in 2019 and is situated on a farm in Hartlebury, Worcestershire. The nursery operates from 7am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for a week at Christmas and bank holidays. The nursery employs 14 members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold qualified teacher status, two hold a childcare qualification at level 6, five hold a childcare qualification at level 3 and two are qualified at level 2. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Amanda Tompkin
Amanda Tompkin

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 inspector and the manager completed a learning walk to understand how the setting operates and how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.

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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