

Inspection of Little Toes Day Nursery Bottesford

25 Walford Close, Bottesford, Nottingham NG13 0AN

Inspection date: 13 October 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

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

Children's care needs are not always met. At times, there are too few staff available to care for children. Children are exposed to hazards and are put at risk in the event of an emergency. Furthermore, children are not always supported to learn at the rate at which they are capable. The supervision arrangements in place for staff do not ensure high-quality teaching is maintained for all children. Younger children are not consistently provided with opportunities to develop their physical skills.

Children share books with staff. They handle books with care and are developing a love of reading. Children hear new vocabulary, such as the word 'rhinoceros'. They confidently repeat phrases from the story that is being read to them. This helps their communication and language development. However, systems in place to share information about care and learning with parents are not fully effective. Some parents do not receive information promptly enough about what activities their child has taken part in or how much food they have eaten during the day.

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

- The provider does not ensure that staffing arrangements are managed in a way that ensures ratio requirements are met at all times. The management team has not fully considered what should happen in the event of staff absences or lateness. Some children arrive at the setting upset. Staff cannot give these children the attention that they need to meet their emotional needs because there are too many other children to care for.
- The management team has not made sure that staff thoroughly risk assess all areas of the nursery. Cleaning chemicals are left in the children's toilet where children could reach them. Because of broken safety locks, children access cupboards in their play environment that they should not be able to. These cupboards contain hazards that pose a risk to children, such as nappy bags.
- The setting has been operating without a food business registration, which does not comply with health and safety legislation. While this has now been rectified, the kitchen where children's meals are prepared still lacks essential equipment to ensure good hygiene practices. For example, the cook does not have access to a handwashing sink or paper towels for drying their hands.
- Fire safety measures are compromised. Staff who do not usually work at the nursery have not had a thorough induction. They are unfamiliar with the fire evacuation procedure and do not know where the assembly points are. Furthermore, at times, there are obstructions to some fire exits. This would hamper the quick and safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.
- Some of the more experienced members of staff demonstrate their ability to

extend children's learning and development. However, not all children experience the same quality of teaching. As a result, some children do not engage in their learning. The manager has established some support and coaching systems to improve staff practice, but these are not yet fully effective.

- Staff recognise that younger children are quickly progressing in their physical development. They provide opportunities for these children to practise their gross motor skills outside, but not inside. As a result, children's behaviour deteriorates as they look for physical challenge. They climb on tables and step up and down on their toys.
- The provider has not made sure that systems in place to enable a two-way flow of information between staff and parents work. Some parents report a delay in receiving information about their child's care and learning. On occasion, parents have to ask for such information rather than it being readily provided to them by staff.
- Staff express their enthusiasm for working at the nursery. The senior management team supports staff well-being through team meetings and regular visits. This promotes a positive team morale and creates a happy place for children to be.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Children are put at risk because they are exposed to risks and hazards in their environment. Not all staff are confident about what to do in an emergency. The manager does not organise staffing arrangements well enough to ensure ratio requirements are always adhered to. This means children are not adequately supervised. Food preparation areas lack essential equipment to ensure good hygiene. Nevertheless, staff know what to do if they have a child protection concern. They can recognise the indicators of child abuse. The manager ensures robust staff recruitment and confirms the ongoing suitability of staff to fulfil their roles.

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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make sure that child-to-adult ratio requirements are adhered to at all times so that children are adequately supervised and their care needs are always met	04/11/2022
ensure all areas of the building that children can access are thoroughly risk assessed to identify any dangers to children, and take action promptly to remove any hazards	04/11/2022
ensure that food preparation areas are fully equipped with the necessary equipment to make sure good food hygiene practices can be maintained	04/11/2022
ensure that all staff receive induction training, with particular regard to the procedure to follow in the event of a fire or any other emergency	04/11/2022
ensure that fire exits remain clear at all times	04/11/2022
ensure coaching and mentoring are effective so that staff fully understand how to implement the curriculum and keep children engaged in learning	25/11/2022
ensure effective systems are in place to enable a two-way flow of information with parents so that they have a full understanding of the care their children receive.	25/11/2022

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

	Due date
ensure that staff understand how to consistently implement a curriculum, especially for younger children's physical development that promotes their gross motor skills.	25/11/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	2634005
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10257947
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	32
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Little Toes Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP547645
Telephone number	07380960411
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The nursery registered in 2021. It is situated in the village of Bottesford, Leicestershire. It opens Monday to Friday, each week, from 7.30am to 6.30pm. There are seven staff employed, of whom four have a relevant childcare and education qualification at level 3. The nursery provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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 nursery.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children interacted with the inspector during the inspection.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of a group reading activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to two parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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