

Inspection of Pendley Day Nursery

Grass Roots Stadium, Cow Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5NS

Inspection date: 18 October 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are not consistently provided with a curriculum that challenges and extends their learning and development. The quality of interactions between the staff and children is variable. Furthermore, on occasions, more experienced staff become preoccupied completing daily routines, such as sweeping the floor and dealing with administration tasks. This distracts from the quality of teaching provided and leaves less-experienced staff, at times, struggling to teach and support the children in their care. Sometimes, children begin to wander around with limited purpose to their play and noise levels begin to rise.

Nevertheless, children demonstrate that they enjoy their time at the club. Older children are taught how to use scissors safely and demonstrate growing precision as they snip paper. They eagerly search for minibeasts under autumn leaves and use toy diggers to scoop up the soil. However, resources to further support children's imaginary play in the outdoor area are minimal, and rigid routines often interrupt children's involvement in the activities they are enjoying. This also restricts opportunities for children to continue to develop their play and ideas, including those children who prefer to learn outside.

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

- The provider and manager demonstrate a willingness to make further improvements to enhance the quality of care and education provided for the children. They are continuing to receive ongoing advice and support from the local authority. The recruitment of additional staff is also planned.
- Staff knowledge of the curriculum and its implementation varies. The quality of teaching is inconsistent across the nursery. Staff do not always spontaneously build on what children know and can already do as they play. Therefore, learning opportunities are lost.
- Staff attend supervision meetings and regular staff meetings take place to discuss practice issues and to reinforce child protection knowledge. However, this requires further evaluation to ensure staff have the knowledge and skills to raise the quality of the curriculum and learning opportunities provided for the children.
- Younger children develop their hand-to-eye coordination skills as they place beads onto wooden rods. They are taught the names of different play fruits and are shown how to use a spoon to stir the fruits in a pretend bowl. However, overall, the learning environment provided for younger children does not support them to develop high levels of curiosity and concentration.
- Staff greet children on their arrival and support less confident children to settle. This helps children to form attachments and supports their emotional well-being. Children are encouraged to develop their self-care skills and sense of

responsibility. For example, younger children learn how to use cutlery appropriately to feed themselves. Older children are encouraged to independently find their name card on arrival and enjoy placing it on the registration tree.

- Staff support children to understand the importance of following appropriate hygiene routines, such as the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snack. Children with known medical needs have care plans in place. This supports staff to ensure children are given any required medication at the correct times. However, the manager does not always ensure that a written record is kept of all medication administered to children. This is a legal requirement.
- Staff support older children to develop their literacy skills. Older children enjoy listening to familiar stories, show an interest in the illustrations and repeat familiar phrases. They enjoy using paint and chalks to make marks on paper and on the outdoor chalk board. Older children count objects and enthusiastically recite 'five, four, three, two, one, blast off' as they pretend to launch a rocket.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse. They understand referral procedures and their responsibilities to keep children safe from harm. This includes what action to take if an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff. Management follow appropriate recruitment and induction procedures. Suitability checks are completed to ensure all staff working with the children are suitable. Management and staff complete regular risk assessments to identify and minimise any potential risks of harm to children.

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 and embed the implementation of the curriculum, including staff deployment and their interactions with the children, to ensure all children receive consistently meaningful and challenging learning experiences that build on what they already know and can do | 27/01/2023 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| improve professional development opportunities to identify gaps in knowledge, skills and practice that will help raise the quality of the curriculum and learning activities provided for children | 27/01/2023 |
| ensure a written record is maintained each time medication is given to children. | 19/10/2022 |

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

- enhance the learning environment for children aged under two, and extend the range of resources provided in the outdoor area to enable all children to explore and develop their own play and ideas
- support staff further in following daily routines while still recognising and allowing children time to develop and complete activities they are enjoying.

Setting details

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Unique reference number | 2605167 |
| Local authority | Hertfordshire |
| Inspection number | 10257664 |
| Type of provision | Childcare on non-domestic premises |
| Registers | Early Years Register |
| Day care type | Full day care |
| Age range of children at time of inspection | 1 to 4 |
| Total number of places | 55 |
| Number of children on roll | 45 |
| Name of registered person | Pendley Day Nursery Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | 2605166 |
| Telephone number | 01442 891144 |
| Date of previous inspection | Not applicable |

Information about this early years setting

Pendley Day Nursery registered in 2020 and operates from the Grass Roots Stadium in Tring, Hertfordshire. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Four members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 4. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Ann Austen

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 viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery to understand how the early years curriculum is organised. She spoke to the registered individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with the children during indoor and outdoor activities and assessed the impact this has on the children's progress and achievements.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the children's progress and achievements.
- A sample of the nursery documents were reviewed by the inspector. This included evidence of staff suitability and training.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.

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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