

Inspection of Play Away Day Nurseries Ltd

1,3,5 Chapel Road, West End, Southampton SO30 3FE

Inspection date: 4 November 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 and welfare are not assured. Staff do not follow policies with regard to babies' safe sleeping arrangements and meeting children's dietary requirements at mealtimes.

Children arrive happy and separate easily from their parents. They access a range of opportunities and resources to support all areas of development. Children demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. For example, they persevere as they make their own 'fireworks' play dough. They scoop and mix the ingredients together, which help to develop their physical skills. In addition, young babies enhance their sensory skills by playing with natural objects, including fir cones and wooden shapes. They smile and show curiosity as they explore the textures.

Communication and language are a focus for the nursery. For example, older children listen attentively to familiar seasonal stories. They confidently predict what will happen next, which sparks conversations about staying safe. Children join in with spontaneous singing across the nursery, which helps to widen their vocabulary. Older children have a lending library, which includes a range of books supporting different languages. Plans are in place to develop this scheme throughout the nursery.

Staff value the importance of sharing ideas with parents to further support children's learning at home. For example, families recently took part in an autumnal walk, talking about the colours and seasonal changes that children notice.

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

- Since the last inspection, the nursery has been acquired by a larger childcare company. The management team have worked hard to address the issues raised at the previous inspection. However, safeguarding procedures are not consistently followed by all staff. For example, sleeping arrangements for babies do not follow national guidance or company policy. This puts babies at risk.
- There are dietary management systems in place. However, these are not always followed, or understood by staff. Meals are not checked to ensure they are in line with the dietary needs of individual children. This puts babies and children at risk.
- Induction is not comprehensive for redeployed staff working in the nursery. Some staff are not familiar with the company's policies and procedures. As a result, they do not receive the support they need to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.
- Leaders do not have an effective system in place for monitoring staff to check their ongoing suitability. For example, some senior staff have not had

supervision opportunities to ensure their practice remains current and to explore any issues that may affect their role.

- Staff do not consistently promote good hygiene practice across the nursery. For example, at lunchtime, older babies wash their hands and faces. They then use the same cloths to wipe the tables and then wipe their faces again. This does not ensure their comfort and well-being. Older children are not always encouraged to wash their hands before snack time. In addition, children are not reminded to put their hands over their mouths when they cough or sneeze. This does not support the good health of children.
- Staff plan the curriculum well. All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points. Staff provide children with a range of learning opportunities, so they are confident and independent in their play.
- Children move freely indoors and out, choosing what they would like to do. However, occasionally, the daily routine for older babies does not meet their needs, as they sometimes have to sit for long periods. For example, before lunch they join a singing session, then move to the tables and have to wait for their meal. As a result, some children become restless.
- Children behave well. They have positive relationships with their key persons and friends. Children show kindness and courtesy to one another. They cooperate well during their play.
- The management team work well with other professionals and providers. For example, they have good links with the community nurses. This helps to support staff's knowledge and understanding so they can plan to meet the individual care needs of children.
- Parental partnership is effective. Parents say they know their children's key persons and what they will be learning next. The management team have put effective systems in place. This ensures parents receive up-to-date information about their children's progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Staff do not follow policies and procedures relating to safe sleeping arrangements for babies or dietary management requirements. This puts children at risk. The management team and staff have a good understanding of reporting safeguarding concerns in line with local procedures. Staff receive regular training and the management team check their understanding through quizzes and discussions during meetings. They have knowledge of county lines and domestic violence. As a result, staff recognise the indicators of abuse and know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children in their care. Most staff hold a paediatric first-aid qualification, which helps to ensure they respond appropriately to accidents.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the

provider must:

	Due date
implement effective monitoring systems to ensure policies and procedures are followed by all staff to ensure the safety of babies and children at sleep and mealtimes	18/11/2022
ensure the induction process is comprehensive for staff transferring in from other settings	18/11/2022
ensure staff's ongoing suitability is assured at all times	18/11/2022
ensure that good hygiene practices are consistent across the nursery.	18/11/2022

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

- review the routine and improve transitions at lunchtimes for the older babies, so that children have valuable, meaningful learning experiences at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	509572
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10218057
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	0 to 5
Total number of places	100
Number of children on roll	144
Name of registered person	Play Away Day Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902258
Telephone number	023 80466563
Date of previous inspection	2 December 2021

Information about this early years setting

Play Away Day Nurseries Ltd is now part of the Family First Nursery Group. It originally opened in 1997 and operates from a large site, consisting of three houses, in the West End area of Southampton. The nursery is open each weekday, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 22 members of staff, most of whom hold early years qualifications at either level 2, 3 or 4.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Lindsay Osman
Kelli Wiseman

Inspection activities

- The inspectors 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 deputy manager, manager and inspectors completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspectors talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspectors carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspectors.
- The inspectors observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspectors looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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