

Inspection of Little Crickets

Tring Park Cricket Club, London Road, TRING, Hertfordshire HP23 6HA

Inspection date: 12 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 happy and settled in the nursery. Older children adapt well to the change in their environment while work is completed on their nursery room. Children enjoy a walk out into the local field. They look at the changes in the season and collect leaves ready to explore later. Staff working with the oldest children know them well. They use their knowledge of children's next steps and interests to create activities. However, those working with the youngest children do not have the skills and knowledge to plan and deliver purposeful activities. Therefore, children do not always gain the necessary skills required for future learning.

Children have good relationships with the staff. They look to them for comfort and happily talk to visitors who they know are close by. This demonstrates how safe and secure they feel in the nursery. Children behave well. They understand the rules and values of the nursery. Staff celebrate children's behaviour, proudly displaying their achievements on the wall for all to see.

Photos on the walls of children completing activities help to give children a real sense of belonging to the nursery. The staff transferred these over to the new room, supporting children with settling into their new surroundings.

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

- Staff caring for the youngest children do not have all the necessary skills required to teach children and support their learning and development. Staff often focus on activities that are too advanced for children, and activities are not aimed at their developmental needs. Therefore, the youngest children do not always make good progress in their learning.
- The manager has created a robust settling-in procedure following the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a wealth of opportunities for parents to share information about their child's development. They discuss their child's interests and ways in which staff may best comfort their children when necessary. However, staff in the baby room do not use this knowledge to support babies with settling in. Therefore, the newest children take longer to settle and remain unsettled for longer periods of time than needed.
- Babies enjoy using their senses to explore. For example, babies enjoy exploring the rice and pasta play. Staff narrate the activity, exposing those who are learning to talk to new words and phrases.
- Children develop their mathematical skills through activities that interest them. Older children explore dinosaurs, looking for the numbers they can find on the leaves. Staff encourage children to state the number they can see and then provide them with the same number of dinosaurs. Later, they look at dinosaur

footprints and the shapes they can see. This introduces wider mathematical concepts.

- Mealtimes for the oldest children are sociable occasions. Children enjoy talking to each other about their meals and what they have been doing. Staff join children at their tables, and children invite them into their conversations. Staff talk to the children about their healthy meals. Later, children enjoy a stretch and relaxation time. They pretend to be autumn trees waving in the wind, watching as their leaves fall to the ground. Staff talk to children about how their hearts feel and the importance of exercise. This supports children to understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Parents highly commend the nursery for going over and above for their families. They talk of the large amount of information they receive about their child's development. Parents feel part of their children's learning journey. They discuss the amount of communication they receive from the nursery and say they would recommend the nursery.
- The manager has a good understanding of what she would like the children to learn while they are at the setting. She has regular meetings with her staff team. However, she does not always check staff's understanding of child development. Therefore, those who struggle to understand the next steps of the youngest children are not always supported sufficiently.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are confident in their knowledge of safeguarding. They know the signs and symptoms of abuse and understand the recording and reporting procedures of the nursery. The manager ensures the newest staff are confident in their safeguarding knowledge before they start at the nursery. Staff are confident about the whistle-blowing procedures to follow if they are concerned about other members of staff and are confident to report any concerns independently if they need to. All staff complete regular safeguarding training to ensure their knowledge remains up to date. Risk assessments are carried out to ensure children are kept safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
plan consistently meaningful and challenging learning experience for the youngest children, which build on what children can already do	05/01/2023

ensure information gathered from parents is used effectively for children who are settling in to consistently meet their individual needs	05/01/2023
focus professional development plans on improving staff's teaching skills that help them to support the younger children in building on what they already know and can do.	05/01/2023

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

- improve the monitoring of staff practice to develop their knowledge and understanding of how young children learn so that all children benefit from consistently good-quality learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2595930
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10249214
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 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	EMK Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2595929
Telephone number	01442890530
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Crickets registered in 2020 and is based in Tring, Hertfordshire. The nursery employed 10 members of staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens from 8am till 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lisa Smith

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 manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out two joint observations of group activities of different-aged children with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector 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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