

Inspection of Westhoughton Kids Club

Westhoughton Kids Club, Acorn House, Dams Head Fold, Westhoughton, Bolton
BL5 3JH

Inspection date: 13 December 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

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety and well-being are not assured. Staff knowledge and understanding of child protection matters is very varied. This means several staff do not have the necessary safeguarding knowledge and understanding to help keep children safe. Additionally, some aspects of risk assessment lack rigour. This means staff do not always take sufficient steps to fully minimise all potential risks to children. Potential hazards identified by the inspector were immediately removed. Furthermore, there are occasions when children are escorted to and from the nursery by staff who do not hold a paediatric first-aid qualification. This compromises children's health and well-being in the event of a medical emergency.

Despite the identified weaknesses, most children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at the nursery. The quality of education for children aged two years and over is good. Children in the toddler and pre-school room benefit from a wide range of well-planned activities and experiences that they enjoy. Skilled staff successfully utilise what they know about children's interests and their current capabilities to support and extend children's learning. This helps these children develop some of the skills and knowledge they need for school. However, children aged between 12 months and two years do not enjoy the same quality learning experiences. Staff caring for these younger children respond appropriately to meet their care needs. However, meaningful interactions to support their learning and development are limited. At times, these children are unstimulated and show little interest in the very limited range of activities provided. This means that not all children who attend the nursery are making the progress they are capable of.

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

- Leaders' oversight of the provision is weak. They do not have a good enough understanding of their role. This means they do not carry it out effectively. There are times when the manager identifies areas of weakness but does not take sufficient action quickly enough to address these issues, for example to improve staff's knowledge of child protection.
- Staff induction and procedures for staff supervision are not effective. This means staff are not adequately supported. Professional development is varied, and leaders fail to identify meaningful and appropriate targets for all staff to work towards. Several staff have not received the training they need in relation to child protection, which places children at risk.
- Leaders have also failed to support staff working with babies under two years of age to complete required training that specifically addresses the care of babies. Furthermore, the manager does not ensure that staff escorting children to and from the nursery hold a required paediatric first-aid certificate. This potentially compromises children's health and well-being.

- Despite identifying weaknesses in the quality of teaching, and in the range of activities and experiences provided, the manager does not provide the support staff need to bring about the necessary improvements to their practice. This means that some children receive a poor quality of education.
- Staff support children as they learn how to share, take turns and build positive relationships with others. Overall, children behave very well. They are kind and considerate. For example, one two-year-old spontaneously gets a chair for their friend, so they can join in with the activity. However, weaknesses in the quality of education for older babies means these children are not fully supported to develop a positive attitude to learning.
- Children over two years of age are becoming increasingly independent in managing their personal needs. However, they are not fully supported to learn about the importance of making healthy choices around food and drink, particularly when bringing their own drinks from home.
- Throughout the nursery, staff provide a warm welcome and quickly offer reassurance to help promote children's emotional security. As children move through the nursery, they demonstrate high levels of confidence and self-assurance. They make purposeful decisions about the activities they engage in. Children happily sing the Christmas songs that they have learned to the inspector, as they practise for their Christmas show.
- Staff continue to be mindful of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the development of some children's communication skills. Overall, they monitor the children's speech well. Experienced staff promptly discuss any possible risk of delay and share good practice with parents, to help children make progress.
- Parents speak positively about the nursery. They say their children are settled and enjoy attending. Information to meet children's care needs is routinely exchanged at arrival and collection times. Parents say they feel informed about their child's progress and their time at nursery.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Staff with lead responsibility for safeguarding have a sufficient understanding of the procedures to follow. They are able to report any concerns brought to their attention without delay. However, some staff have not received the training they need in relation to child protection, and staff awareness of safeguarding issues is very varied. This means staff are not able to securely identify possible indicators of abuse in order to raise these with the manager at the earliest opportunity. This places children at risk of harm. Staff routinely implement a standard risk assessment. However, staff fail to identify potential risks posed by trailing electrical wires. Furthermore, while good levels of supervision minimise the risk to children, staff briefly leave the door to a store cupboard containing hazardous items open. Staff do, however, provide children with some clear explanations which help to raise their awareness of how they can help to keep themselves and others safe, for example when using scissors.

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
provide training that enables staff to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond in a timely and appropriate way	10/01/2023
ensure at least one person who has a current paediatric first-aid certificate is available at all times	10/01/2023
ensure that at least half of all staff working with children under two years of age receive training that specifically addresses the care of babies	10/01/2023
ensure the induction and supervision of staff is effective	10/01/2023
implement effective risk assessments which identify potential hazards and ensure children's safety	10/01/2023
support staff to undertake appropriate training and professional development that improves the quality of teaching	10/01/2023
ensure children are provided with a broad range of well-sequenced opportunities that help all children to make the best possible progress	10/01/2023
ensure that food provided is healthy, balanced and nutritious, and supports children in making healthy choices about what they eat and drink.	10/01/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539538
Local authority	Bolton
Inspection number	10262117
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 9
Total number of places	110
Number of children on roll	137
Name of registered person	Kiddy World Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP539537
Telephone number	01942 790528
Date of previous inspection	28 November 2018

Information about this early years setting

Westhoughton Kids Club registered in 2016. It employs 18 members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds a qualification at level 2, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two hold level 6 qualifications. The club opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and one week over the Christmas period. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The club provides a school drop-off and pick-up service from several local schools to link with its breakfast and after-school service. It also provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. These sessions are provided between 9am and 3pm, during term times only.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Vickie Halliwell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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 setting.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The manager and the inspector completed two joint observations; they subsequently evaluated the activities observed.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children during activities and assessed the impact of teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector reviewed a variety of documents, including evidence of the suitability of staff, qualifications, first-aid certificates and policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to staff and members of the management team at convenient times during the inspection. The inspector also spoke to parents and took account of their views.

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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