

Inspection of Heathside Day Nursery

Heath Road South, Weston, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4QR

Inspection date: 16 November 2022

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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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

Leaders and staff do not have a good enough understanding of how to keep children safe. Staff do not understand how to minimise risks of accident and injury to children. In the extensive outdoor area, children are not always directly supervised. There are discarded broken toys, equipment and bags of rubbish that could fall on top of children or put them at risk of suffocation. Children are given food while they still have dummies in their mouths. This puts children at risk of choking. The evacuation cot is not accessible, clean or in sufficient working order should it be required in an emergency evacuation. Indoors, areas of the nursery and some furnishings, such as cushions, are unclean. Despite leaders identifying these issues, they have not been fully addressed.

Staffing arrangements do not meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. When children arrive in the morning there are not enough staff working directly with the youngest children. Staff do not have the time to engage with the children and help them settle, resulting in children becoming very upset. This negatively affects their emotional well-being and hinders their learning. Poor supervision of the youngest children results in toddlers climbing on furniture, playing with radiator guards and walking around with fruit peel in their mouths. Children use dummies continuously while at the nursery. Staff show little understanding of the importance of removing dummies so children can develop their communication and language skills. Leaders and staff do not provide children with an appropriate range of learning and development opportunities. Children are not making the progress of which they are capable.

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

- On the day of the inspection, the poor deployment of staff for the first two hours resulted in children's care needs not being met. Leaders move staff around the rooms to manage the number of children arriving. Babies and toddlers are distressed by this constant change.
- Leaders are not providing staff with effective training and systems to manage risks. Staff show a disregard to maintaining an appropriately safe and secure environment for children. Once this was identified at the inspection, the manager took steps to address some of these issues. However, not enough is done to minimise risks to children on a daily basis.
- The provider failed to notify Ofsted of a recent poor environmental health inspection outcome that resulted in leaders needing to take action, including updating the kitchen. The leaders continue to work closely with the environmental health team to ensure basic minimum hygiene standards are met. No concerns regarding hygiene were found on the day of the inspection.
- Some staff show care and concern for the children. However, other staff ignore

children who are visibly upset and require support. Children are not building secure attachments with the staff in the nursery. They do not show that they feel safe and secure.

- Children are not supported to develop positive behaviour. Staff do not have high enough expectations of what children can achieve. Pre-school children push each other out of the way as they run down the corridor to the bathroom. They are not developing self-control or respect for others.
- Staff are not suitably trained or deployed to support children's learning. Staff complete tasks away from the children rather than providing engaging activities. The environment and activities, inside and outside, are not planned to be sufficiently challenging and do not build on what children know and can do. Therefore, children become bored, wander around aimlessly, and find their own alternative entertainment. For example, pre-school children are left to pile cushions up on the floor and roll around on them.
- Children are not exposed to quality language structures through back-and-forth interactions. For example, when children are getting ready to go outside, staff tell children to use one word, 'help', if they need assistance. Staff do not model full sentences to help children learn more words. Children do not make adequate progress in their communication and language development.
- Despite recent changes in staffing, parents are complimentary about the support provided by the new manager and nursery staff. They share that they are happy with the progress their children make. However, most parents do not come into the nursery beyond the entrance hall when they drop off and collect their children. This means that they have not had the opportunity to see the concerns raised at this inspection for themselves.
- The provider and manager are keen to make the required improvements. They state that they have plans in place to bring about improvements to the nursery. However, these have not yet been implemented, and appropriate action has not been taken in a timely manner.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Leaders and staff do not ensure that the premises is safe for children. They do not have a good enough understanding of risk assessment. This means that routine checks of the areas that children play in are not carried out and necessary steps to ensure children can play safely are not taken. Consequently, children are at risk of injury and accident. However, the manager and staff have a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms that may indicate that children are at risk of harm or abuse. The staff and leaders have a secure understanding of how to report concerns about a child.

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
ensure staff are always deployed to meet the needs of the children and to keep them safe	30/11/2022
ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise risks to children's safety	30/11/2022
ensure staff undertake training and professional development opportunities to enable them to provide all children with a broad and sequenced curriculum that supports their good progress.	21/12/2022

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

- help staff to develop their understanding of how to support children's communication and language development appropriately.

Setting details

Unique reference number	303439
Local authority	Halton
Inspection number	10262216
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	42
Number of children on roll	70
Name of registered person	Network Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906985
Telephone number	01928 560243
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

Heathside Day Nursery registered in 1998. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 7.30am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lois Hulley

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.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- 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 spoke to children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- 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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