

Inspection of Little Explorers Nursery

Our Lady House Nursery, Hay Lane, Kingsbury NW9 0NG

Inspection date: 19 January 2023

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

The quality of the curriculum is not good enough. Staff do not plan activities for children with a clear purpose to meet the next steps of individual children. Quieter children sometimes receive little attention and are too often unnoticed by staff. Therefore, children are not well prepared for the next stage of their learning, such as starting school.

Children form bonds with some staff. However, leaders do not ensure that staff use effective strategies to support children in managing their behaviour. There are too many occasions when children do not behave well. For example, children snatch toys or hurt their peers too often. This means that, at times, children do not feel safe and secure.

Children do not always understand the routines as they are not consistent and communicated clearly to children. For example, children do not always understand when it is time to sit down for snack or put their coat on to go in the garden. This feels chaotic for the children and does not provide them with the security of knowing what will happen next.

Children are not kept sufficiently safe in the nursery environment. They are at risk of infection as leaders have not yet implemented effective hygiene practices. Children are at risk of harm due to unidentified risks in the setting. For example, wires hang down in reach of the children, and radiator covers are broken.

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

- Leaders have put a programme of training in place. However, they do not carry out individual supervision meetings with staff often enough. This lack of regular supervision meetings limits the opportunities that staff have for support, coaching and training. This means that some staff do not have the necessary skills to provide a high quality of care and learning to the children.
- Leaders do not deploy staff well enough. At times, the provider does not meet the ratio requirements. On these occasions, there are not enough staff with the necessary skills and understanding to provide a good level of care and education to the children. This impacts on children's safety, learning and development. On occasion, staff are not deployed so that children are supervised well enough. This means that staff do not always notice if children have an accident or injury.
- Staff do not always ensure that mealtimes support children to develop their social skills. Children do not always sit down together to eat their snack or meal. Some children continue to play during mealtimes or walk around as they eat their snack. This could put children at risk of choking. In addition, this does not allow staff to model table manners to children or allow children to participate in

important interactions as they eat.

- Leaders do not ensure that mealtimes provide all children with enough food and drink. Some children do not eat enough to provide them with the nutrients they need to sustain themselves throughout their time at nursery. Staff do not ensure that children always have access to fresh drinking water. This could put children at risk of becoming dehydrated.
- Leaders do not plan an effective curriculum for communication and language. There are too many occasions when children are left to play or wander around the room without staff supporting them to develop their communication skills. This means that children do not make good progress in their language development. Children who show delays in their language development are not always identified. Therefore, staff do not provide extra support and interventions to help these children successfully.
- Staff do not provide enough opportunities for children to be physically active. They do not consider how to support children to develop specific skills in their physical development, such as climbing, balancing and jumping, during daily play. In particular, babies have very limited opportunity for physical development. This does not help children to develop their physical skills or their overall fitness levels. Staff do not help children to learn important physical skills, such as putting their coats on. Staff do this for the children too often. This does not prepare children well for the next stage of their learning journey.
- The key-person system does not support children's care and learning needs. At times, staff without sufficient experience and qualifications are given responsibility for the learning and care needs of a large number of key children. They do not have the knowledge to understand what each child's next steps are in their learning and how to help them to achieve them. This limits the progress that children make.
- Leaders and staff build strong partnerships with parents. Parents appreciate the verbal feedback that they get when they collect their children. They value the approachability of leaders and staff.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Leaders do not have a secure understanding of the necessary processes to follow if they have concerns about the well-being of a child. In addition, they do not understand the steps they must take if an allegation is made that a member of staff has harmed a child. This compromises the safety and well-being of children. Poor hygiene practices put children and staff at risk of infection. For example, children do not always wash their hands before eating. The staff bathroom is dirty. In addition, poor risk assessments impact on children's safety. For example, children walk around as they eat, putting them at risk of choking. Staff do not supervise children well consistently, putting children at risk of harm.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action.

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due date
ensure the lead practitioner understands the necessary processes to follow if there are safeguarding concerns, including when there are concerns that a child may be at risk and how to manage allegations against staff	27/01/2023
implement a robust programme of supervision for staff that supports them to understand their roles and responsibilities	27/01/2023
deploy staff in a way that keeps children safe at all times	27/01/2023
ensure that children have enough to eat to sustain them while they are at nursery	27/01/2023
ensure that all children have access to fresh drinking water at all times	27/01/2023
put effective hygiene practices in place	27/01/2023
implement clear and effective systems for managing children's behaviour	27/01/2023
implement robust risk assessments that identify potential risks or hazards in the childcare environment effectively, and take all reasonable steps to eliminate or reduce these risks.	27/01/2023

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
implement clear and consistent routines for children throughout the day to help them feel safe and secure	10/02/2023

implement an effective and ambitious curriculum so every child makes progress, particularly for the prime areas of learning	10/02/2023
ensure that each key person understands their key children's next steps and plans learning opportunities that support them to achieve these.	10/02/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496651
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	10265420
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 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	20
Name of registered person	Little Explorers Day Care Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP908681
Telephone number	07958200438
Date of previous inspection	2 May 2018

Information about this early years setting

Little Explorers Nursery registered in 2016. It is situated in Kingsbury, in the London Borough of Brent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery employs seven members of staff, five of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jenny Gordon

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.
- Leaders and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the curriculum.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with leaders.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing within the setting.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector had discussions with staff and parents and took their views into account.
- The inspector held discussions with leaders about nursery practices and procedures.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023