

Inspection of Little Owls Day Nursery

Thistle Drive Playcentre, Wessex Close, Peterborough PE2 8HZ

Inspection date:

23 February 2023

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

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Overall, the quality of education provided for children requires improvement. Although children demonstrate that they are settled and happy to attend they are sometimes left to occupy themselves as staff complete other daily tasks. Children do not benefit from consistent well-planned activities and interactions from the staff that extends their learning. For example, when children begin to make marks in the porridge oats, staff do not spontaneously use this opportunity to build on their interests. They do not challenge children's ideas and thinking as they play. Children lose interest and wander off. Furthermore, some younger children are sometimes unnoticed during group story and rhyme time activities as staff focus on older children.

Younger children enjoy looking at picture books of animals. They are encouraged to make animal sounds, such as neighing like a horse and are introduced to mathematical concepts, such as big and small. Older children develop their hand-to-eye coordination skills as they use spades to scoop and transport sand. Children play cooperatively together as they build the train track and carefully line up the toy trains on the wooden track. Older children are developing their pencil control skills.

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

- The quality of care and learning opportunities provided for the children has declined since the last inspection and requires improvement. The nursery has recently undergone some staff changes and the manager is currently trying to recruit new staff. On the day of the inspection, the manager and staff failed to follow their daily cleaning routines. The children's toilets and hand wash basins were dirty, and stairs leading to the nursery room had not been cleaned.
- The manager recognises that improvements are required to ensure the outdoor area is safe and suitable for its purpose. This restricts regular opportunities for the children to play and learn outside. Temporary arrangements are in place to make the area secure and further work is planned to enhance outdoor learning opportunities for children.
- Staff do not consistently structure and implement a meaningful curriculum, and the quality of teaching is variable. Staff do not plan activities well enough to engage children in purposeful learning. Additionally, staff, sometimes, fail to motivate children's engagement in their play, to build on what each individual child knows and can already do. Children's interest is not always sustained and at times staff look disinterested. Additionally, the manager could not find completed progress check information for children between age two and three years, which she states had been completed.
- Staffing arrangements do not consistently or effectively meet children's needs.

Sometimes, staff are overstretched completing daily duties, such as covering for other staff and preparing for snack while trying to also care for the children. This also dilutes the quality of education provided for the children at this time.

- Staff have opportunities to complete training courses, such as how to support children who speak English as an additional language. However, training opportunities require further evaluation to ensure all staff understand and have the knowledge and skills to implement the curriculum effectively across the nursery. This includes their interactions with the children.
- The manager and staff develop appropriate relationships with the children and demonstrate that they know them. Children are welcomed on their arrival at the nursery. They seek reassurance if they are feeling sad or upset, and older children are encouraged to talk about their feelings during group time activities. This appropriately supports children's emotional well-being.
- Overall children behave appropriately. They learn to listen, take their turn and to share the resources. Children respond to gentle reminders not to run indoors and learn to follow instructions.
- Management and staff develop appropriate partnerships with parents. Information about their child's day is shared on collection, and parents can access information about their child's development and progress through an online app. Parents have opportunities to become involved in the nursery. For example, the manager arranged a Christmas themed stay-and-play session for the children and their families.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff demonstrate a sound understanding of the possible signs of abuse and neglect. They understand how to make a referral if they have concerns about a child in their care. The manager follows appropriate recruitment and induction procedures. Checks are completed to ensure staff working with the children are suitable. Staff ensure that the children are always accompanied and supervised when they access all ground floor areas, including the children's designated toilets. They teach the children to walk sensibly and to hold onto the handrail when they access the stairs.

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
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ensure areas used by the children are suitable for their purpose; this includes the cleanliness of the toilets, stairs and outdoor area	10/03/2023
review staffing arrangements to ensure staff effectively meet the children's needs at all times	10/03/2023
improve staff's personal effectiveness, including their knowledge of the curriculum and interactions with the children, to ensure all children receive meaningful and challenging learning experiences that build on what they already know and can do	21/04/2023
improve professional development opportunities to identify gaps in knowledge, skills and practice that will help raise the quality of the curriculum, staff interactions and learning activities provided for children	21/04/2023
ensure progress checks for children aged between two and three years are completed and available for inspection.	24/03/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY500534
Local authority	Peterborough
Inspection number	10278537
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	1 to 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	33
Name of registered person	Little Owls Day Nursery (Peterborough) Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP535417
Telephone number	01733315747
Date of previous inspection	28 August 2018

Information about this early years setting

Little Owls Day Nursery re-registered in 2016. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 5pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Ann Austen

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager, who is also the registered provider, and the inspector completed a learning walk to understand how the early years curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with the children during indoor activities, and assessed the impact this has on the children's progress and achievements.
- The manager and staff engaged in discussions with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the children's progress and achievements.
- A sample of the nursery documents was reviewed by the inspector. This included evidence of staff suitability and training.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by speaking to them.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.

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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