

Inspection of Squirrels Children's Day Nursery

8 Cook Street, LEIGH, Lancashire WN7 4BT

Inspection date:

7 March 2023

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Not met (with actions)

Previous
inspection

Inadequate

Summary of key findings

This provision does not meet requirements

- Since the previous inspection, there have been significant staffing changes. After losing a number of staff, the provider took the decision to temporarily close the nursery. The provider does not currently employ a manager. Their representative cannot demonstrate how the previously required actions have been addressed. This hinders their ability to demonstrate a capacity to improve.
- The provider has not ensured that the premises and equipment are ready to be used in a way which keeps children safe and healthy. The indoor areas are disorganised and have not been cleaned since the nursery's last day of operation. The provider's representative is unable to explain how they will ensure that staff implement safe sleeping guidance. This was required at the previous inspection.
- The outside area has not been risk assessed or maintained in a way which ensures that it continues to be suitable for play and learning. Some equipment is weathered, unclean or in disrepair. There are a number of water-gathering containers, which would be accessible to children and pose a risk of harm. Additionally, there is still no safe area for babies to play, as previously required.
- The provider's representative fails to demonstrate an ability to implement an effective safeguarding policy and procedure. They are unclear about how they would respond to an allegation made against the manager or a staff member. This hinders the provider's ability to protect children from harm.
- The provider's representative does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of child protection issues. They lack understanding of the training required of the lead safeguarding practitioner. Furthermore, the representative is unable to recognise potential indicators of abuse and ways they would expect the manager and staff to respond to these, to help keep children safe. The arrangements for ensuring that staff understand and are able to implement child protection procedures are not secure.
- Assessment arrangements are not well understood. The provider's representative is unable to demonstrate an understanding of the requirement for staff to complete a progress check for children aged between two and three years. They have no systems in place to ensure a summary of progress is provided to parents, to help inform them of any gaps in children's learning and development.
- The provider's representative demonstrates an understanding of their responsibility to ensure that children are provided with a challenging curriculum that promotes their progress. They explain how they will closely monitor the quality of the provision, including the effectiveness of the curriculum, through visits and by using feedback from local advisers.
- The provider's representative demonstrates that they recognise the importance of discussing each child's individual needs at the start of their placement. They understand the importance of working in partnership with parents to help identify children's initial care and learning needs. There is a strong commitment to promote inclusive provision for all children.

There were no children in the early years age range present when this inspection took place. The findings in this report are based on evidence gathered from discussions with those who care for the children and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation. Where there are no early years children present, no judgement is made on the quality of the early years provision as there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children. The report states whether the provider continues to meet the requirements of registration.

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
recruit a suitable manager who holds an approved qualification at level 3 or above and who is suitably skilled and experienced to fulfil the requirements of the role	07/06/2023
demonstrate an ability to implement a policy and procedure, which is in line with that of local safeguarding partners, to safeguard children	07/06/2023
demonstrate an ability to implement a procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff	07/06/2023
demonstrate how the lead safeguarding practitioner will attend a suitable training course that enables them to identify and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns	07/06/2023
demonstrate how all staff will be trained to implement a robust procedure for responding to safeguarding concerns	07/06/2023
ensure the premises are clean and suitably organised to meet the needs of the children	07/06/2023

demonstrate understanding of and the ability to ensure staff implement safe sleeping guidance	07/06/2023
conduct a risk assessment of the outside play area, toys and equipment, and take steps to ensure children are not exposed to hazards	07/06/2023
ensure the outside play area is safe for the children and offers suitable provision for the play and learning of babies	07/06/2023
demonstrate how staff will carry out the required progress check on all children aged between two and three years.	07/06/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY562132
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	10252480
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 0
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	0
Name of registered person	Squirrels Leigh Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP562131
Telephone number	01942603919
Date of previous inspection	8 August 2022

Information about this early years setting

Squirrels Children's Day Nursery registered in 2018 and is situated in Leigh, Wigan. The nursery is temporarily closed and currently there are no employed staff. The nursery's usual opening hours are from 7.30am to 6pm each weekday, all year round, excluding bank holidays and one week at Christmas.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Angela Rowley

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the provider's representative who will oversee the childcare provision. They discussed the previous inspection outcome and action taken to meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage.
- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider and the next steps.
- The provider's representative and the inspector had a tour of the premises. They discussed risk assessment and observed the organisation of the space and equipment inside and outside, to ensure the premises and equipment are ready for use by children.
- The inspector discussed the learning and development requirements and considered the provider's ability to ensure these are met and to monitor the quality of early education provided in the nursery.
- The provider's representative discussed their intentions for recruiting staff and deploying staff safely.

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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