

Inspection of Little Folks Day Nursery

Edward Parry Centre, Coventry Street, Kidderminster DY10 2BP

Inspection date: 16 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

Children who attend this nursery are not sufficiently safeguarded and are at risk of harm. Ineffective risk assessments and poorly implemented safety checks do not identify and remove hazards. For example, children play outdoors where there are large shards of broken glass in a planting trough. Leaders do not implement a rigorous cleaning schedule. Therefore, staff are unaware who is responsible for the daily checks of the environment. Sinks are dirty, bin lids are soiled and unclean trays are left next to where babies sleep.

Children are not protected from the spread of infection. Hand hygiene is poor. Babies crawl around outside, then do not wash their hands before eating. Staff do not always change their gloves and aprons between nappy changes. This puts children at risk of cross-contamination of germs. Poor deployment of staff means children's needs are not being met. Children spend long periods needing their noses wiping or support with toileting. Staff fail to notice when a child is leaning on a table almost falling asleep. This negatively impacts on children's well-being and health.

Children are polite and use good manners. They enjoy taking appropriate risks as they race down a slope on ride-on toys. They follow instructions well, such as lining up to get ready to go outside.

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

- Leaders fail to ensure their staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures. Some staff do not know who to contact if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Staff lack awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the 'Prevent' duty. This means they cannot protect children and be alert to this happening.
- The quality of teaching is inadequate. Leaders fail to deploy staff effectively to meet the learning needs of children. Staff are busy attending to auxiliary tasks, such as preparing food and tidying up. This leaves children often wandering around without focus or meaningful interactions with staff. Teaching is infrequent and does not challenge children enough. This means children do not make the progress they are capable of.
- Leaders describe what they want children to learn in the nursery. However, they do not effectively monitor the implementation of the curriculum. Poor planning of the nursery routines means children spend too long waiting without purpose. For example, babies wait in their seats at lunchtime long before their food is ready. Staff struggle to fill this time with useful teaching. As a result, children become fed up and upset.
- Staff teach children to use walking feet, put their listening ears on and use kind

hands. Most of the time children follow their instructions. Staff notice when children climb on cable reels, but do not explain the impact of the unwanted behaviour. This means another child copies the same behaviour shortly after. Children do not get a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

- Leaders do not promote healthy lifestyles and good oral health. Some of the children present, including young babies, bring in their own drink, which is normally squash. Fresh drinking water is not easily available for children to access. This impacts on the long-term good health of their teeth.
- Leaders do not ensure there is an effective key-person system in place for when staff are absent. Staff who are covering absences do not know children's individual next steps, so cannot successfully support their learning and development. This hinders children's overall progress, especially if their key person is due to be off for a prolonged period.
- Parents speak well of the nursery and say their children are happy attending. Information about their child is shared verbally with parents at the beginning and end of the day.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Hazards and risks are not identified and removed from the environment during safety checks. This means children are in danger and risk sustaining an injury. Children play next to large shards of broken glass. Staff do not know the procedure to follow if they are concerned about a child's welfare. Staff are unable to describe the signs and symptoms of FGM and radicalisation. This means children cannot be safeguarded from them. Leaders do implement safe and robust recruitment procedures, and they assess the ongoing suitability of staff that work with children.

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 risk assessments are carried out to assess and remove or minimise any risks to children, and areas are kept clean and hygienic	06/03/2023
ensure staff follow rigorous hygiene procedures when changing babies' nappies	06/03/2023

ensure that all staff have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues and understand the safeguarding policy and procedures	06/03/2023
ensure staff respond to each child's emerging needs and guide their development through warm, positive interactions	06/03/2023
implement an ambitious and well-organised curriculum that provides challenge to children throughout the day and supports them to make progress in their learning and development	06/03/2023
improve the arrangements for the performance management of staff, to ensure all staff are fully equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to undertake all aspects of their roles to a good level	06/03/2023
ensure that staff consistently manage children's behaviour in a suitable way so that they receive clear messages about what is expected of them during the day	06/03/2023
promote the good health of children, including oral health and handwashing practice	06/03/2023
ensure fresh drinking water is always available and accessible to children	06/03/2023
implement an effective key-person system to ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs.	06/03/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539961
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	10275429
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 5
Total number of places	82
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	R & J Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP539960
Telephone number	01562861000
Date of previous inspection	13 December 2018

Information about this early years setting

Little Folks Day Nursery in Kidderminster registered in 2016. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 5, five hold qualifications at level 3, one holds a qualification at level 2 and one is unqualified. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Katie Rudge

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.
- This inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following information received about the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.

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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