

Inspection of The Old Barn Day Nursery and Preschool

The Old Barn, 5 Copt Oak Court, Leicester, Leicestershire LE19 3WY

Inspection date:

26 May 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

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children receive a warm welcome from staff as they arrive for the day. They confidently leave their parents and younger children that need it are given reassurance when upset, tired, or not sure about joining in with the activities on offer. Staff interact positively with children. They get down to their level and join in with their play. However, the implementation of the curriculum within the nursery is variable. Staff working with children under two years old are not clear about what they want individual children to learn. This means that not all staff are able to build on what children know and can do, and children's learning is not always promoted effectively.

Some areas within the nursery, such as the pre-school bathroom, are not maintained to the required standard. For example, the wooden dividers between the toilet cubicles have exposed, damaged and splinted chipboard. This means this area cannot be cleaned to the required standard to ensure that hygiene is maintained. That said, children are supported to learn about how to keep themselves healthy, they wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. Staff help children to understand why they need to apply sun cream before going outside to play on warm and sunny days.

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

- There are secure procedures in place to manage children's special dietary requirements and allergies. Although staff ensure that tables where children sit to eat meals are clean, some areas of the nursery are dirty, and not all areas within the nursery are well maintained. In particular, the floors and toy storage units have a build up of dirt. This increases the risk of the transmission of viruses and infections.
- The acting manager has a good knowledge of the curriculum and what children should learn. The pre-school staff implement the curriculum well, they support children to build on what they already know and can do. They give children time and opportunity to practise skills that they will need for their eventual move to school. However, the acting manager has not ensured that the curriculum has been successfully implemented throughout the nursery. This has led to weakness in the delivery of the curriculum for children under two years old.
- Staff who have key person responsibility know their key children well. They understand what activities the children enjoy and what they want children to learn next. However, staff that assume responsibility for children when their key person is absent are not fully aware of the children's development needs. This reduces the opportunity for staff to support children to practise and develop the skills they need to learn.
- Parents comment that their children are happy at the nursery and enjoy

attending. Staff keep them well informed about their child's day. Staff use an online diary to send them photos of their child playing and to keep them informed about what their child has eaten, if they have slept and the type of activities that their children have taken part in.

- Staff are positive role models and encourage children to use manners and to take turns with equipment and toys. Pre-school children are friendly and sociable. They happily include each other in their play. Children work as a team to fetch water from the outside tap to pour down a pipe, in order to fill up large containers. Pre-school staff use the children's interests in filling the containers to model and encourage language in relation to counting, volume and capacity.
- Staff complete the statutory progress check at age two and talk to parents regularly about children's development. They promptly recognise the signs that children may need additional help or support. Staff work alongside parents and other professionals where gaps in children's learning and development are identified, to implement targeted support. Where children attend more than one setting, there are procedures in place to ensure that the staff share information with the other setting to ensure continuity of care.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their responsibility to keep children safe and protect them from harm. They are alert to the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of abuse. Staff understand the action they need to take in line with the local authority safeguarding partnership guidance, if they were to be concerned about the conduct of another member of staff or a manager. Staff support children to learn how to take safe risks within their play. They supervise children closely as they balance to walk along planks and rope bridges. Ratios and space requirements are met.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
ensure the premises and equipment are maintained and meet a good standard of hygiene.	16/06/2023

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

- support staff working with children under two years old to understand the

curriculum intention and implement it consistently

- ensure all staff understand the development needs of the individual children that they care for.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2637839
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10293571
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	49
Name of registered person	The Childcare Corporation Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902737
Telephone number	0116 286 1992
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Old Barn Day Nursery and Preschool registered in 2021 and is located in Narborough, Leicestershire. The nursery employs 26 members of childcare staff, 15 of whom hold early years qualifications at levels 2 and 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except bank holidays and for one week during the Christmas period. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery offers funded places for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Teresa Lester

Inspection activities

- The inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- 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 setting.
- The acting manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the acting manager.
- 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 talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector viewed documentation which demonstrated the suitability of staff.

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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