

Inspection of Uley Under 5s Playgroup

Uley Village Hall, The Street, Uley, DURSLEY, Gloucestershire GL11 5SJ

Inspection date: 11 May 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education	Inadequate
Behaviour and attitudes	Inadequate
Personal development	Inadequate
Leadership and management	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety is at risk. The manager, who is also the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), does not have a good enough understanding of her role and responsibility to help keep children safe. She does not ensure staff are aware of the outside agencies they can contact should they have any concerns about a child's welfare or staff member's behaviour. The DSL does not make sure referrals to outside agencies are made in a timely manner. She also does not make key staff aware of children that may be at risk. Furthermore, systems to record and monitor welfare concerns are not robust enough.

The manager does not ensure staff receive the support they require. Therefore, they lack the knowledge and understanding to successfully fulfil their roles and are unable to provide a challenging curriculum for the children. Children are often left to play alone with limited interaction from staff. Some children run up and down the playroom with no support to engage in meaningful play.

The key-person system is not effective. Some staff are unaware of who their key children are. Staff do not always ensure parents know what their children are learning or how to progress their learning at home. Children's individual needs are not met.

Children begin to build good relationships with their friends. They share chalks as they make marks on the chalk board. They discuss ideas about what they might draw, and they work together cooperatively.

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

- The DSL lacks knowledge of her role and does not ensure concerns about children are referred to the relevant agencies in a timely manner. Furthermore, she does not keep accurate records of concerns about children in her care, which prevents her from identifying patterns of concerns. The DSL does not always consider new information when it is received. Furthermore, the lack of recording concerns is not in line with the setting's own safeguarding policy.
- Staff are not provided with the information they need to keep children safe. This is because the DSL does not share pertinent safeguarding information with them to enable them to be alert to signs that might suggest children's safety may be at risk.
- Staff do not have a good enough understanding of safeguarding procedures to protect children. Some staff do not know how to escalate concerns that they may have about a child or the behaviour of a staff member to outside agencies.
- The manager fails to ensure staff have the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to successfully meet children's individual needs. Staff are unable

to engage and include all children in play. They rely heavily on the manager for guidance on what to do next. During times when care-giving routines take place, children lack direction and interaction from staff. While some children independently play, others run up and down the playroom. Staff simply ask them to stop running but do not understand how to support them to take part in activities that support their learning.

- Key persons do not have the information needed to tailor their support to children's individual needs. Some parents say that they do not know who their child's key person is and are not given sufficient information to help them understand what their child is learning at playgroup.
- The manager and her staff fail to deliver a broad curriculum tailored to the needs of the children. They fail to provide children with sufficient challenge. For example, when staff read a book, children sit for long periods, and staff do not encourage them to express their thoughts and understanding of the story and think about what might happen next. Furthermore, staff do not engage children when they notice different letters and sounds. Children are not supported to make the progress they are capable of. Many children repeatedly engage with push-and-go cars for extended periods with limited interactions from staff. Others seek toys independently and play alone.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The DSL does not have a clear knowledge of her role and responsibility to help keep children safe. She does not keep robust records to make it easy to identify if a child is subject to a pattern of concerns. She does not ensure referrals are made to outside agencies for children that she has concerns about. Relevant staff are not kept informed of any safeguarding concerns. While staff are aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk, they are not all aware of the outside agencies they can contact if they have concerns about a child or a member of staff's behaviour.

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 systems are in place for the DSL to make sure concerns about children's safety or welfare are referred to the statutory agency without delay	12/05/2023

ensure the DSL provides support, advice and guidance to relevant staff on an ongoing basis and on any specific safeguarding issues as required	12/05/2023
ensure staff understand the procedures to follow to safeguard the welfare of children, including how to refer their concerns to outside agencies when required	12/05/2023
improve the monitoring of staff practice, and provide staff with coaching and training to ensure they are able to fulfil their roles	19/05/2023
implement an effective key-person system to ensure children's care is tailored to meet their individual needs including sharing information with parents.	19/05/2023

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

	Due date
provide and deliver a curriculum that is effective and designed to give children a wide range of learning opportunities that cater to their individual needs and provides them with sufficient challenge to enable them to make the progress they are capable of.	16/06/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	101520
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10269536
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	16
Name of registered person	Uley Under 5s Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP906644
Telephone number	07896 587983
Date of previous inspection	18 November 2022

Information about this early years setting

Uley Under 5s Playgroup registered in 1993. It operates from Uley Village Hall, in a rural location on the outskirts of Dursley, Gloucestershire. The playgroup is open during term time from 8.30am to 1pm on a Monday and from 8.30am to 3pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The playgroup employs three members of staff including the manager. Of these, one holds a level 7 qualification, one holds a level 6 qualification and one holds a level 3 qualification. The playgroup receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah-Louise Clements

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- 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.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of a group activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.

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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