

Inspection of Kids Zone Childcare Limited

Unit 14 Sea Lake Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 3LQ

Inspection date: 23 March 2023

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

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's welfare and good health are not assured. Risk assessments are not effective in identifying potential hazards within the environment so that these can be removed or minimised. This compromises children's health and well-being.

The management team is clear about what it is children are to learn, but this is sometimes inconsistently planned and implemented. For example, the manager intends for children to mark make in the garden, but during the morning session, no resources were available to children to practise these skills. Other children choose to play in the role-play house, but they are not provided with any resources for them to develop their imagination. Children readily leave their parents at the door. Once inside, they place their lunch boxes in the designated area and find their name for their peg. Overall, children behave appropriately. They know what is expected of them and follow instructions. Staff are on hand when children need reminders of the setting's rules and boundaries, such as helping to tidy away resources.

Children are physically active. They enjoy using the indoor climbing apparatus. They confidently climb up the steps, balance across the platform and jump off the end. Outside in the garden, children use ride-on vehicles to navigate their way around the hard surface area. Staff encourage children to practise balancing on some logs. Children challenge themselves to step on each one and discover which log is wobbly.

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

- The provider does not ensure that the environment is fit for purpose and maintained to a good standard. Although cleaning routines are in place, they are not effective to promote children's good health and well-being. For example, carpets, tables and chairs where children play are dirty.
- Leaders do not ensure that the risk assessment process is effective. Leaders and staff fail to identify and minimise potential hazards and risks to children. For example, despite the daily morning risk assessments being carried out, children have access to stagnant water. Staff observe children playing with and collecting this water in containers and allow them to use it to water the plants. This compromises children's physical health and safety.
- Children are starting to learn the importance of good hygiene practices. Staff encourage children to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as after using the toilet and before eating. However, staff do not notice when children have extremely runny noses. Children use their sleeves and hands to wipe their noses across their faces as they continue to play with the toys and resources. This puts children at risk of cross-infection.

- Staff support children to develop a love of books. Babies enjoy cuddling up to staff as they have a story read to them. Staff use character props to gain the attention of younger children to help them focus on the story. Children call out in delight when they see the 'Gruffalo' creep up from behind the staff member's back. Staff model language and ask children questions to support their thinking and listening skills. As a result, children confidently hold conversations with adults and other children, sharing their thoughts and ideas.
- Staff know the children they care for and their families well. They gather information when children start at the setting to help plan for children's next steps and help them settle. For instance, when staff know a new child's interest is construction, they provide materials such as foam blocks, sand, tools and different-sized cardboard boxes for children to build with. Children enjoy working together as they build a tower against a wall.
- Overall, children are provided with a variety of activities that meet their interests. For example, children join in with play dough and painting activities. However, sometimes the planning and delivery of adult-planned activities do not meet the learning intentions. For example, staff do not always have the equipment they need to carry out an activity. This can lead to some children's lack of engagement and some children leave the activity. Additionally, staff add other resources into the activities which distract from the intended learning outcomes.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Risk assessment is not used effectively to minimise potential risk to children. Where control measures have been put in place, these are poorly maintained. For example, padding on metal bars that is intended to reduce the risk of children bumping their heads is torn and partially missing. Staff are aware of the signs and indicators that may mean a child is at risk of harm or abuse. There is a designated lead for safeguarding concerns. Staff know how to report concerns that they have regarding a child or the conduct of a colleague. Staff are knowledgeable about the wider safeguarding concerns that pose a risk to children, such as female genital mutilation.

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 that the premises are fit for purpose, with particular regard to cleanliness and hygiene	06/04/2023

take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and ensure children's health is not compromised	06/04/2023
ensure risk assessments are effective in identifying and removing all potential risks to children's health and safety, including outdoor stagnant water	06/04/2023
improve the planning and implementation of activities to focus more precisely on the individual learning needs of children.	06/04/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY483761
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10283154
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 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	39
Name of registered person	Kids Zone Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534165
Telephone number	01502 587081
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2022

Information about this early years setting

Kids Zone Childcare Limited registered in 2015. The setting employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold early years qualification at level 2 and above, including one at level 7 and two at level 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and the period between Christmas and New Year. Sessions are from 7am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Shelly McDougall

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The deputy manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- 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 spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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