

Inspection of Ducklings Private Nursery

Moor Hall School, Rowallan Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B75 6RE

Inspection date: 22 November 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

There are significant weaknesses in the safeguarding procedures at the nursery. Not all staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe. Poor supervision means that children cannot always be seen or heard by staff. Leaders and managers have not considered the risks of leaving a door to the nursery unlocked when parents come into the school grounds at the end of the school day. This puts children at risk of harm.

The quality of education is poor. Recent changes in staffing mean that they do not know enough about children's interests and stages of development. As a result, staff do not provide children with an interesting and challenging curriculum. Children become bored, leave the activity, and wander around the room aimlessly. Children show challenging behaviours because staff do not motivate them to learn and stay engaged. Staff plan some adult-lead activities. For example, they carry out an activity making 'paper clay'. However, poor teaching does not ignite children's interests and they wander away from the activity soon after it has started. That said, children arrive happily and confidently separate from parents or carers. They make independent choices about what they would like to play with from the well-resourced environment.

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

- The planning of the curriculum is weak. There is a significant lack of exciting and challenging experiences for children. Staff do not know what children need to learn next. They do not focus on the planned learning intentions of activities. Children do not stay engaged in their learning. As a result, the progress that children make in their learning and development is poor.
- Strategies that staff use to manage children's behaviour do not help them to understand expectations. When children display unwanted behaviour, staff simply say 'no, no, no' without offering any explanation of why this behaviour is unacceptable. This results in children repeating and copying other children's poor behaviours. In addition to this, staff frequently use physical intervention when it is not necessary. For example, when children move away from group story and singing sessions, staff call them back and when they refuse to return staff pick them up and return them to the group. This means that children are not learning to follow simple rules and boundaries.
- Although adult-to-child ratios are maintained, staff deployment is poor. Children are not supervised well enough. For example, staff allow children to repeatedly go out of sight and hearing when they play in the larger school playground. This does not ensure their safety.
- Leaders and managers do not ensure that staff are supported in their roles. Leaders do not provide sufficient support, supervision and mentoring to enable

staff to fulfil their responsibilities. This negatively impacts on the outcomes for children.

- Parents comment positively about their children's experiences in the nursery. They say that their children enjoy attending and have made friends with other children. Parents express how well informed they are of what their children are taking part in during the day.
- Staff promote children's physical skills well. Children enjoy spending time outside, where they can run around and join in with games, such as 'What's the Time Mr Wolf'. Staff hold children's hands as they negotiate the climbing area, where they learn to balance and climb.
- Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks as part of a healthy and balanced diet. Children have opportunities to learn about the importance of keeping themselves healthy, such as learning the importance of washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet.
- Staff are kind and greet children enthusiastically. Staff offer children cuddles and comfort when needed.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Leaders and managers do not ensure that children are safeguarded well enough. Staff are not deployed well enough to ensure that children are always within sight or hearing of staff. The premises are not secure enough to prevent unauthorised persons entering. New staff do not have an appropriate understanding of how to report any allegations made against other members of staff beyond senior leaders. This compromises the safety and well-being of children. That said, staff who have been working at the setting for longer have a better understanding of the safeguarding policies and procedures. Managers follow suitable recruitment procedures to ensure that staff are checked for their suitability to 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 that all staff understand the procedure to follow to report concerns to external agencies in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff	20/12/2023
ensure that staff are deployed to supervise children effectively at all times	20/12/2023

ensure that unauthorised persons cannot enter the nursery premises	23/11/2023
ensure that staff understand and follow appropriate procedures for managing children's behaviour	20/12/2023
improve the planning of the curriculum to ensure that it meets the individual needs of the children and has a clear learning intention for what children need to learn next	20/01/2024
implement effective support, supervision and mentoring procedures, so that all staff understand and are able to fulfil the requirements of their role.	20/01/2024

Setting details

Unique reference number	2643261
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	10319941
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	Ducklings Private Nursery LTD
Registered person unique reference number	2643263
Telephone number	0121 3080456
Date of previous inspection	6 December 2022

Information about this early years setting

Ducklings Private Nursery registered in 2021 and is located in Sutton Coldfield. The nursery employs eight staff. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, three are qualified at level 3, and one at level 2. The nursery is open Monday to Thursday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 7.30am to 3.45pm on Friday. Funded early education is provided for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Amanda Tompkin

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager to understand how the setting operates and how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact that this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in 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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