

Inspection of Mountlands Day Nursery

36 Vicarage Road, Gloucester GL1 4LD

Inspection date:

3 January 2024

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

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

Although the leadership team has employed a new manager and made some changes since the last inspection, these actions have not improved the quality of the provision. There are significant weaknesses in practices and procedures. Risk assessment procedures are not effective, which puts children's safety at risk, particularly when they are outdoors. Due to weaknesses in the induction procedures and lack of support and supervision for staff, staff lack a good enough understanding of their role and responsibilities, and their interactions with children are weak.

The design and the intent of the curriculum remain weak and do not have a strong enough focus on what leaders want children to learn. Staff do not get the support they need to help them understand the curriculum so they can provide targeted and purposeful learning opportunities. As a result, children do not receive the support and challenge that they need to help them to make progress in their learning. Children become bored and run around the playroom. They struggle to share the resources and often snatch toys from each other. Although staff intervene, they do not help children learn how to manage their feelings in an appropriate way because they do not know how to. Children spend time wandering around with little or no interaction from staff. When staff do interact with children, they do not impact positively on children's learning. For instance, when children are interested in insects they find in the garden, instead of helping children to identify the insects, staff tell them that they do not know what they are and ignore the children's requests to learn.

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

- Weaknesses to leaders' and staff's knowledge and understanding of how to identify and reduce risks place children at risk of harm. Although they carry out checks of the garden before children go out to play, staff do not consider the risk of children playing with the poisonous berries from a holly bush or the ivy growing where children play. Furthermore, they leave boxes of heavy toys stacked up high in the playhouse, where children play independently. In addition, at mealtimes, leaders encourage children to put large pieces of hard garlic bread, which are too big for them to chew, into their mouths, and they do not see the potential risk of a child choking.
- Leaders do not ensure that staff know and understand their roles and responsibilities. The induction that staff receive is ineffective, and staff do not receive supervision to help identify and address any weaknesses in their practice. This means that staff are unclear of day-to-day procedures and are unable to deliver a curriculum that meets children's needs. Staff spend too much time simply watching children play, as they do not know how to support

children's learning.

- Although the new manager has designed a new curriculum and planning procedures, she has not ensured that staff have received any training or support on how to implement these or to help them understand what children need to learn. Children do not receive the challenge that they need to help them to make good progress in their learning. For example, they enjoy role playing on a pretend bus, but they soon lose interest, as staff do not provide any direction to extend their ideas or challenge what they already know. Staff do not provide learning based on children's next steps. For example, staff encourage children to join dots together to form letters when they are playing outside and standing up. Staff get them to try to write when they are not developmentally ready to do so. Children do not receive the right support to develop the skills that they need for future learning.
- Children enjoy having opportunities to play outside in the garden with the large ride-in cars and bicycles.
- Leaders and staff take part in child protection training. They understand their responsibilities to monitor children's welfare and to report any concerns that they have about children's well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

There is not an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

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
improve risk assessment processes so that risks are identified and reduced, to help keep children safe	05/01/2024
plan and deliver a broad, ambitious and stimulating curriculum that builds on every child's knowledge and skills and helps them to make good progress in their learning	31/01/2024
provide staff with effective support and coaching to raise the quality of their interactions with children, to support children's engagement in learning	31/01/2024

provide staff with effective induction and supervision, to help them understand their roles and responsibilities and provide children with good-quality learning experiences.	31/01/2024
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Setting details

Unique reference number	EY549276
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	10318062
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	20
Number of children on roll	31
Name of registered person	Sparkling Angels Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP549275
Telephone number	01452 506880
Date of previous inspection	26 September 2023

Information about this early years setting

Mountlands Day Nursery registered in 2018 and is situated in Gloucester. It is open from 8.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for one week over Christmas and Easter. The nursery has six members of staff who work with the children, all of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Victoria Nicolson

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.
- The deputy 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 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 a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children 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.

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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