

Inspection of ABC123

29 St. Georges Avenue, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN2 6JA

Inspection date: 4 December 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	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Staff do not ensure the setting is a safe place for children to play and as a result, expose them to hazards. They do not take the necessary steps to ensure unknown persons cannot enter the building. Staff provide shaving foam, not suitable for children, as sensory play for babies. Children put this in their mouth and become upset by the unpleasant taste. Other children wander the environment eating crackers and are given whole grapes, which is not safe practice and creates a risk of choking. Children's health and well-being are not supported. Staff place potties in the corridor and do not provide children with any privacy when using them. Staff do not support children's understanding of good hygiene as they fail to ensure children wipe themselves before pulling up their clothing or washing their hands.

Children receive a significantly poor quality of care and education as staff lack the necessary knowledge and skills to support them. Children are not assigned a key person at the setting, and staff in their rooms do not know children's ages, cultures, or what languages they speak. Therefore, children's needs are not met. Children are not provided the support they need when finding it difficult to share with others. Therefore, at times, they use unwanted behaviour to demonstrate their frustration such as pushing and grabbing others. Children of all ages deemed by staff as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are grouped together and segregated from their peers in a separate room and garden space. Staff do not provide them the support and interactions needed to develop their knowledge and skills which at times, causes them distress.

Despite this, children respond warmly to staff's interaction with them and mostly build positive relationships with staff.

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

- Staff do not make sure children are kept safe and well. They do not supervise babies well enough to notice when they put items such as metal hair clips in their mouth. When children pick up hay outside, which potentially contains chicken faeces, staff do not understand the hygiene risks this poses to children and allow them to carry this around for the morning and as they get ready for lunch.
- Leaders allow parents open access to the nursery building at all times of the day. Parents enter the building through various entrances using a pin code which they have been given to unlock the doors. However, staff do not monitor who is entering or exiting the building and do not supervise areas well enough. At times, staff are unaware that parents in the building are unwittingly letting unknown persons in. As a result, children are at risk from potentially unsuitable people gaining entry to the nursery.

- Leaders do not assign children with a key person. Therefore, they have failed to ensure that each child has a consistent member of staff that knows them and can support their needs, and their learning and development. Staff do not know vital information about children, including when they are due to start school. As a result, they are unable to identify typical age-appropriate development and what support they need to provide for individual children. They do not recognise when children need support with drinking water from a cup despite children trying several times and appearing thirsty.
- Staff remind some children not to climb on chairs and tables. They help them follow some routines such as following a member of staff to a different room if they have a packed lunch from home. However, this support is inconsistent, resulting in some children being unclear about what is expected of them.
- Staff plan and undertake activities without considering children's different abilities. Every morning, they secure all children under three years into pushchairs and place some pre-school aged children on to 'buses' and push them around the same route in the park opposite the setting. The quality of staff interactions with children is poor during these times as staff do not know enough about the children in their pushchair to make the activity meaningful. As a result, any learning is incidental. At other times when children are not engaged, they start to display unwanted behaviour such as pushing and kicking others.
- While parents are happy with the care their children receive and are complimentary about the staff and setting, staff do not ensure parents and carers have accurate information about their children. Parents do not know who is responsible for their children's learning and care and who they are with during the day. As parents are not sure where to drop their child off, they have to search the building to find out. Staff do not gather information from parents about children's experiences outside the setting and do not work effectively with parents to support children's development.
- Children who staff consider to have additional needs are segregated from their peers, and are taken to separate spaces for the most of the day. Staff explain this is because it is too difficult to manage their behaviour. These children receive a poor quality of care, support and education. An example of poor care is when staff place children on the toilet with no communication or warning which makes them distressed.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Children are put at risk because the nursery building is not secure from unknown persons. Staff do not take steps to minimise risks to children resulting from hazards in the environment. Despite this, staff have a suitable knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The designated safeguarding lead liaises with other professionals to ensure that children are safeguarded. Staff record appropriate information in the event of an accident or injury. Leaders undertake the appropriate checks to determine the suitability of adults working in the nursery and monitor staff's ongoing suitability. Staff maintain a record of children's hours of

attendance.

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
take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well and reduce risks to their well-being	04/01/2024
ensure there is an effective key-person system and staff fulfil their role as a key person effectively, so that the care and education provided are tailored to meet the needs of every child including children who speak English as an additional language	04/01/2024
ensure information about children's care, learning and development is accurately and effectively shared with parents and carers	04/01/2024
take all necessary steps to ensure the premises is secure from unknown persons gaining access to the building	04/01/2024
ensure staff and leaders meet the needs of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and demonstrate inclusive practice.	04/01/2024

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY318077
Local authority	West Northamptonshire
Inspection number	10319545
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	80
Number of children on roll	220
Name of registered person	The Nannery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525982
Telephone number	01604722226
Date of previous inspection	4 October 2021

Information about this early years setting

ABC123 registered in 2006 and is based in Northampton. The nursery employs 25 members of childcare staff. Of these, 21 hold appropriate early years qualifications at levels 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round except for Christmas and bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors

Lora Teague
Melanie Eastwell

Inspection activities

- The inspectors discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The nominated individual and inspectors conducted a learning walk together, discussing the learning intention for children and how the environment is arranged.
- The nominated individual and lead inspector observed and evaluated an activity.
- The inspectors observed staff and children of all ages through the setting.
- The inspectors held discussions with leaders regularly during the inspection.
- Parents' and carers' views were taken into consideration.
- A sample of documents were reviewed, including paediatric first-aid certificates and suitability checks..

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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