

Inspection of Woodlands Day Nursery

2 Artemis Court, St. Johns Road, Meadowfield, DURHAM DH7 8XQ

Inspection date:

14 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

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective because staff do not robustly check the safety of areas which children will use. However, children are keen and enthusiastic to come to the nursery and are welcomed by friendly staff. Staff support children who are new to the nursery and provide reassurance to help them settle in. Although leaders have worked extremely hard to develop a new curriculum, this is not implemented yet and the quality of staff's teaching is variable. Staff use praise to manage children's behaviour positively. However, at snack time, children do not receive clear messages about rules and boundaries to keep them safe. Children drop food on the floor, and other children pick this up. This does not promote their good health.

Staff support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They have targeted support plans to use. This helps them to focus on minimising gaps in children's learning. For example, children enjoy a singing session making animal sounds. Staff model sounds to them and help them develop their language skills. Staff work hard to establish and maintain effective parent partnerships. Parents are welcome in the nursery, as the restrictions since the COVID-19 pandemic have been reduced. This has helped staff to get to know children's families and promote continuity of care.

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

- The manager and staff team do not assess risks and hazards thoroughly, particularly in the outdoor area. Staff do not identify risks associated with stagnant water and they allow children to play in this. Ofsted received information that an unauthorised person was able to enter the nursery. However, the leadership team has taken steps to minimise the chance of this reoccurring.
- The leadership team is very experienced and has a clear vision for improving the new nursery. There are detailed plans in place to develop the curriculum. Leaders model good practice to staff and provide support to the new manager in her role. They show dedication and commitment to providing staff with a professional and supportive place to work.
- Staff do not consistently provide experiences for children to engage in their learning. This means that some activities lack purpose, and staff do not extend children's learning. For example, staff focus on children's strengths as opposed to supporting them in areas of difficulty. Occasionally, children wander around and show signs of boredom.
- In contrast, teaching modelled by leaders is of high quality. They challenge children to share their knowledge, then help them extend this and develop their skills. For example, children identify that they have made a square. Leaders ask

them how they know this, and children point out the four sides. Leaders extend this into drawing other shapes and challenge children to further develop their mathematical skills.

- Children receive specific praise from some staff, which helps them to know what they are doing well. However, some staff do not consistently implement boundaries for children. For example, they ask children to come back to the table with their snacks but do not reinforce this instruction.
- Staff know how to meet children's emotional needs extremely well. They are kind and nurturing and have very good relationships with children. Despite the weakness in safeguarding, children demonstrate that they feel secure with staff. They seek reassurance from staff and enjoy lots of cuddles. Children have good levels of self-esteem and grow in confidence.
- Children's good health is not promoted. For example, children walk around during snack time, eating food and drinking formula milk. Some children try to drink from the bottles and eat crackers which other children have left on the floor and table. This does not prevent the risk of cross-infection and is a risk to children who have allergies.
- Staff help children to develop their independence and self-help skills. Children benefit from praise as they put their wellingtons on and try to put their arms in their sleeves. Older children use tissues independently and put them in the bin. Staff support children to begin to use the toilet and wash their hands correctly.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. Staff gather detailed information about children and their families. This helps them to prepare resources which they know children enjoy. Parents say that their children are very happy here and staff know them well.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Risks and hazards are not robustly identified or minimised. This has a negative impact on children's safety. However, staff's child protection knowledge is secure. They can identify the potential signs of abuse and know how to respond swiftly. The manager ensures that staff stay up to date with a range of child protection issues, such as county lines and signs of neglect. There are clear policies and procedures to follow to record and report concerns. The leadership team follows safer recruitment procedures and check staff's suitability to work with children. For instance, staff have Disclosure and Barring Service checks, which are regularly verified.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
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ensure that risks and hazards are identified and staff understand all steps they need to take to minimise them	13/04/2023
improve staff's understanding of how to provide experiences for children which are challenging and help them to engage deeply in their learning	13/05/2023
promote children's good health consistently and ensure that they have a safe, hygienic space to eat and drink.	13/05/2023

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- support children to understand behavioural boundaries and expectations consistently, particularly at mealtimes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2699440
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10278138
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	55
Number of children on roll	8
Name of registered person	Northumbria Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2699439
Telephone number	07951539805
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Woodlands Day Nursery re-registered in 2022. It is situated in the Meadowfield Industrial Estate in Durham. The nursery employs two members of childcare staff, including the manager. The manager has a degree in early childhood studies. The other member of staff holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Lorains

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- 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 inspector observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- A joint observation was completed by the manager and the inspector, indoors during children's activities.
- The inspector held a discussion with one of the nursery's directors and the manager in relation to the leadership and management of the nursery. She looked at relevant documentation, such as evidence of recruitment, staff's qualifications and their suitability to work with children.
- The inspector spoke to parents and obtained feedback for the inspection.

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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