

Inspection of Growing Minds Montessori Childcare - Tarporley

School House Nursery, Chester Road, Kelsall, Tarporley CW6 0ST

Inspection date:

30 May 2025

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

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

The provider has not ensured that all staff follow the safeguarding policy and procedures. Staff have received safeguarding training, and there is a safeguarding policy in place that details the use of mobile phones. However, senior managers use their personal mobile phones in the vicinity of the children, which is not in line with the safeguarding policy. Furthermore, the provider has not ensured that staff who prepare food are fully aware of how to do this to minimise the risk of choking. These factors pose a significant risk to children's safety and welfare.

The provider does not monitor the performance of staff precisely enough. They do not ensure that staff use assessments of children effectively. Staff are not clear about what children need to learn next. The planned curriculum does not support all children's learning. As a result, children do not access a curriculum that is well sequenced and supportive of their individual needs. Additionally, incidents of poor behaviour are not managed well, and children do not receive adequate support to help them understand the expectations.

Staff are sensitive to the children and offer them comfort and reassurance as needed. Children benefit from some interesting activities such as singing and outdoor play. However, the overall quality of education does not help to prepare children for the next stage of their learning and the eventual move to school.

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

- The provider has a safeguarding policy that includes the use of mobile phones. However, the implementation of this is not effective. The provider does not ensure that the policy is followed by leaders. Leaders use their personal mobile phones in areas where children are cared for. Mobile phones are taken into nappy-changing areas. Leaders do not recognise the full impact of this. As a result, the risk of harm to children is increased.
- The provider has not ensured that new staff who prepare children's food receive induction training specific to their role. This has resulted in gaps in knowledge and skills with regard to preparing food safely for young children. For example, staff provide young children with food that has not been appropriately cut. This compromises children's safety and poses a choking risk.
- The provider has some understanding of the importance of promoting children's health and hygiene. For example, children wash their hands after using the toilet or before eating. However, not all hygiene practices fully promote the good health of children or adults. At times, children and adults share washcloths to wash their hands. Additionally, on occasion, children wipe their noses with their hands. Staff do not encourage children to use a tissue or to then wash their hands. The arrangements in place do not help children to understand how to

maintain their good health and minimise cross infection.

- Assessment of children's learning and development is not effective. Staff do not regularly identify children's next steps in learning. This means that planned activities do not help children develop the skills that they need to learn next. Additionally, completed progress checks at two years old are generic. Parents do not receive information that is specific to their child. This means parents are not given clear guidance on how to help their children learn at home. The planned curriculum and support for parents do not prepare children for the next stage in their learning.
- Staff do not support children to understand the behavioural expectations or how their behaviour impacts others. Furthermore, staff ignore incidents of poor behaviour. Some children are happy to play alongside their peers, while others demonstrate a lack of respect for each other and for adults. For example, children are observed hitting out, snatching resources, standing on furniture and using disrespectful language to each other and to staff. This creates an unsettled and unsafe learning environment.
- Staff build partnerships with parents. They regularly share information about the setting and children through discussions, messages on the online platform and newsletters. Furthermore, some staff have developed positive partnerships with other professionals involved in children's care and education.

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
ensure all staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding policy, and that all staff follow the policy for the use of mobile phones	18/07/2025
ensure staff who prepare food have relevant training to complete their role and maintain safety	18/07/2025
ensure hygiene practices are effective and that staff consistently promote children's good health	18/07/2025

ensure assessment identifies what children need to learn next and provide parents with information specific to their children	18/07/2025
implement strategies to manage children's behaviour more effectively and to help children to understand the expectations.	18/07/2025

Setting details

Unique reference number	2726132
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	10392404
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	37
Number of children on roll	20
Name of registered person	Growing Minds Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP561957
Telephone number	07850173603
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Growing Minds Montessori Childcare, Tarporley, registered in 2023. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff, three of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.00am until 7pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Deborah Magee

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery 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 manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.

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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