

Minnows Children's Day Nursery

39 Turford Avenue, MIDDLESBROUGH, Cleveland, TS3 9AT



Inspection date

13 October 2016

Previous inspection date

10 April 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff are not sufficiently attentive at mealtimes to ensure that they are on hand to help and support babies. Consequently, during the inspection, the individual needs of some babies were not met.
- Staff do not always successfully guide families in accessing specialist advice for children who may require extra support.
- Additional funding allocated to children is not used effectively.
- Leaders have recently introduced a new system to track the progress of groups of children. Unfortunately, the data used has been interpreted incorrectly. Subsequently, focused teaching has not been directed towards the areas of learning that children need.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy and well settled and enjoy their time at the nursery.
- The learning environment is well planned with a wide range of activities available for children. Children demonstrate high levels of independence. They are able to select resources for themselves and lead their own learning.
- Parents receive regular information about their children's activities and achievements.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
■ ensure that the individual needs of babies are met at mealtimes	14/10/2016
■ assist parents to access relevant services from other agencies for children who may require additional support.	30/10/2016

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

- use additional funding appropriately to support the developmental needs of children who qualify for it
- make effective use of data gathered from tracking systems to correctly focus teaching matched to children's needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector and the manager jointly observed an activity and discussed how she evaluates practice.
- The inspector observed children and discussed their progress with their key person and the plans to support children in the next steps of their learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, a representative of the provider and a representative from the local authority. She looked at relevant documentation, such as staff records and a range of policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents and received written feedback from other parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Katharine Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Leaders are not yet able to demonstrate how they have used additional funding appropriately to narrow gaps in children's learning. Leaders regularly evaluate what they do. The views of staff, parents and children are gathered and used to inform decisions. Leaders respond well to advice and guidance from other professionals and make regular changes to improve practice and safety. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff's suitability to work with children is checked when they join the team and on an ongoing basis. Staff have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding children. They follow policies and procedures to protect children and promote their welfare. Staff are supported in developing their practice through a training and development programme.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Recently introduced systems to track the progress of groups of children have not been monitored effectively. Consequently, teaching is based upon inaccurate information. Some children are not adequately supported in the next steps of their learning. Staff raise concerns about children's development with their families, in order to help them to access specialist support. However, on occasion, staff do not follow up these concerns, causing a delay in accessing targeted support for children in the nursery. Staff regularly share information on children's progress to engage parents in their child's learning. Staff have high expectations of most children and create interesting and challenging activities to extend their learning. They bring children's favourite books to life with engaging activities that relate to the characters in the story. Children use their physical skills as they explore the areas, extending their vocabulary as they talk about their play. Children enjoy investigating natural materials in the environment. Babies explore a range of familiar objects, discovering different items and trying new ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

On the day of the inspection, staff were not sufficiently attentive to the needs of babies when children were brought together in one group for a meal. Staff were preoccupied with supporting the older children, causing babies to wait unnecessarily for their lunch. Nevertheless, at other times, staff are sensitive to the needs of babies and young children and provide comfort and reassurance to them when they need it. Children are learning to be confident, independent and tolerant of others. They are forming friendships and developing an understanding of similarities and differences between themselves and others through a variety of activities and resources. Staff support children to develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles and how to care for themselves and their friends. Leaders also make sure they share all they know about children as they transfer to school.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Some children are developing below expectations for their age. Gaps in learning are not closing quickly enough. Children are well behaved and are learning to share, take turns, listen and follow instructions in readiness for school. Children enjoy using their voices and expressing their ideas as they play. They are making secure progress in mathematics and literacy.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY359117
Local authority	Middlesbrough
Inspection number	1065020
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	46
Name of registered person	Nunthorpe Nurseries Group Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP911209
Date of previous inspection	10 April 2013
Telephone number	01642 245599

Minnows Children's Day Nursery was registered in 2007 and is part of the Nunthorpe Nurseries Group chain of nurseries. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including two at level 6, two at level 5 and one at level 4. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports children who have special educational needs or disability.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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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