

Inspection of The Lodge

SOUTHCOTE CHILDRENS CENTRE, 85 Coronation Square, READING, Berkshire
RG30 3QP

Inspection date: 28 April 2025

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

The setting has undergone a significant amount of change since the last inspection, including changes in staff and the management team. This has resulted in some breaches in requirements. This is due to poor practice that has not been acted upon swiftly enough to maintain good-quality provision. Safeguarding is not effective. Although staff have all received safeguarding training, they do not consistently follow policies and procedures to ensure visitors do not use their mobile phones within the vicinity of the children. Furthermore, staff are not always deployed effectively to supervise children as required. This has an impact on children's welfare.

The leadership team does not monitor staff's performance well enough to ensure that the staff support children's learning effectively. As a result, not all children receive a curriculum that is well planned, sequenced and supportive of their individual needs. Additionally, children's behaviour is not well managed, and staff do not support children adequately to help them learn right from wrong. Despite these weaknesses, staff are sensitive to the children and offer them comfort and reassurance as needed. Children benefit from some suitable singing and story times, although the quality of teaching has a negative impact on the children's overall learning, development and enjoyment.

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

- Staff do not implement safeguarding policies and procedures adequately. For example, they do not enforce their procedures for visitors using their mobile phones. In addition, despite recent changes made following an incident notified to Ofsted, leaders still do not ensure staff are deployed effectively. For example, staff do not adequately supervise children when eating. Furthermore, in the toddler room, staff are not always aware that not all children are with them at snack time, and some are still playing in the other room.
- New leaders, who have only very recently taken on the role, have a clear action plan in place of how they intend to improve the quality of education and provision. However, as they are so new, they have not had the time to implement these changes to improve the quality of care, education and practice. Staff comment that since the recent changes that they are starting to feel well supported. However, supervision, support, coaching and training is not fully embedded to ensure that necessary improvements are made.
- Staff provide suitable levels of support for children developing their independence, such as helping them learn skills to self-serve their snacks and drinks. In addition, children can make choices about what they would like to do as they select toys. However, due to the quality of teaching, too often children are seen wandering around aimlessly with very little interaction, support and

direction from the staff.

- Children's behaviour is variable. A lot of behaviour is overlooked by the staff, and even when it is noticed, staff do not correct unwanted behaviour consistently so that children learn right from wrong. This does not help children to feel safe and secure. Some are happy to play alongside their peers, while others demonstrate a lack of respect for each other. For example, children of all ages are seen hitting out at each other, climbing on furniture and snatching.
- All children have daily opportunities to play outside and be active. For instance, children of all ages enjoy playing with sensory activities, such as sand and water. Older children enjoy structured running games organised by staff. Some staff engage with the children during activities well. However, the quality of this interaction is variable and not consistently at a good level.
- Parents speak positively about the setting and comment they are happy with the continued changes that have been made since the new leader has started. They explain that the communication between them is much better and that their children are more settled. Parents receive a suitable amount of information about the setting and their children through discussion, messages on the online platform and newsletters. Partnerships with other professionals involved in children's care and education are positive.

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, the provider must:

	Due date
ensure staff are deployed effectively to supervise children adequately, including when children are eating, to minimise the risk of choking	03/06/2025
provide all staff with effective supervision, support, coaching and training to ensure they implement policies and procedures and fulfil their roles and responsibilities	03/06/2025

plan and deliver educational programmes that support all children to make good progress across the areas of learning	03/06/2025
ensure staff manage children's behaviour appropriately to help them learn the effect of their actions on others.	03/06/2025

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY563487
Local authority	Reading
Inspection number	10395525
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	58
Name of registered person	Brighter Futures For Children Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP563486
Telephone number	0118 9373849
Date of previous inspection	16 August 2021

Information about this early years setting

The Lodge registered under new ownership in 2018. The setting operates Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs 12 members of staff. Of these, all hold an appropriate childcare qualification at level 2 or above and the manager and deputy manager have a level 6 qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the leadership team about the management of the setting.
- The inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process, following information we received about the provider.
- The manager explained the nursery curriculum during a learning walk with the inspector.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- Children spoke to the inspector about the activities they took part in.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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