

Rothersthorpe Nursery Ltd.



37 Church Street, Rothersthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN7 3JD

Inspection date 26 May 2015
Previous inspection date 2 June 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Inadequate	4
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The quality of teaching is inadequate. There is a lack of meaningful adult interactions and activities to challenge and promote children's learning. Consequently, children are not supported sufficiently to make as much progress as they can.
- Staff do not effectively use information from their observations to shape the children's learning experiences. Consequently, not all activities are focused well enough on children's precise learning needs.
- Staff do not make the best use of the resources, both inside and outdoors, to engage children's interests and provide sufficient challenge.
- On the day of the inspection, an unauthorised adult was able to briefly gain access to the premises.
- The emotional development of younger children is not always given sufficient priority.
- The manager's overview of staff performance is not sufficiently robust. This restricts opportunities to improve the staff's personal effectiveness and results in inconsistencies in the quality of teaching.

It has the following strengths

- Staff work hard to develop positive relationships with parents and form appropriate links with other early years providers.
- Children enjoy being physically active in the fresh air and are provided with a variety of freshly cooked and prepared meals and snacks. This supports children to develop an understanding of the benefits of physical exercise and a healthy diet.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure the quality of the teaching methods used by the staff results in children being involved in activities that inspire and engage them so that they are challenged to make best progress
- ensure ongoing assessment is consistently used to inform the planning of challenging activities that are fully matched to the children's learning needs and therefore help them to make the best possible progress
- make effective use of resources, indoors and outdoors, in order to ensure children are provided with good quality learning experiences, to keep them motivated and engaged
- ensure procedures to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises are robust, in order to ensure children remain safe
- ensure staff consider the individual needs of the children in their care by taking into account their feelings and helping them deal with their anxieties
- ensure supervision of the staff is fully effective in order to provide consistent coaching to support their continual professional development.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The inspector held meetings with the provider/manager of the setting.
- The inspector spoke with children and the staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of children's records, policies and procedures and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children and discussed self-evaluation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Ann Austen

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is inadequate

Teaching is poor and the planning is not effective in matching activities to the children's individual needs, in order to build on what they know and can already do. Additionally, activities lack appeal and challenge. Staff interactions with the children often resort to merely supervising, rather than being actively involved in their play. Consequently, children are not prepared well enough for the next stage in their learning. Older, more able children in the pre-school room demonstrate an understanding of big and small during a measuring activity. However, staff do not pose additional questions to further challenge children's thinking. Opportunities are missed to support children to count and order objects according to size. Consequently, their interest is not always sustained and their mathematical development is hindered. Furthermore, younger, more able children are provided with inset board puzzles that are too easy for them. This means that opportunities to solve problems and challenge their thinking are minimal. Staff encourage the younger and older children to sing and listen to a story together after their lunch. Older children initially demonstrate their enjoyment by joining in with familiar phases in the story and eagerly sing songs. However, their interest is not sustained and some older children run off and hide under the table. Additionally, younger children's attention is sometimes lost due to the length of the story and staff make no attempts to try to engage them. Staff support babies' early speaking skills. They maintain an ongoing dialogue with the babies and encourage them to copy and pronounce words as they pretend to speak on the telephone. Babies enjoy exploring the activity cubes and refine their physical skills as they crawl through the tunnel. Parents are welcomed into the nursery. They are encouraged to share information to support the initial assessment process and appropriate updates are provided on their child's progress.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is inadequate

The safety and welfare of the children are not assured. On the day of the inspection, an unauthorised person was allowed to enter the nursery and the front door was left open for a short period of time. Staff do not make the best use of the resources, both inside and outdoors, to provide stimulating learning experiences for all children. Opportunities to play outside are often restricted to designated times in the day and resources provided, for example, to support creative art activities, are minimal. Furthermore, pre-school children have insufficient opportunities to independently select additional resources for themselves. This is because, on the day of the inspection, children were confined to one designated area of their room for a significant period of day. Consequently, opportunities for the children to develop and extend their own play and ideas are restricted and their behaviour sometimes deteriorates. Each child is assigned an individual key person. This supports relationships with parents and helps children become familiar with the nursery. Babies receive cuddles and comfort when they are feeling unsure. However, occasionally, the emotional well-being of younger children is not always given sufficient attention. This is because staff sometimes dismiss their anxieties. For example, younger children sometimes demonstrate feelings of intimidation when they are playing in the same room as the older children and staff do not always address their concerns. This is because older children

sometimes become boisterous and noise levels rise. Staff emotionally prepare and support older children as they move on to school. They talk to the children about their new school and encourage children to dress in their uniform. In addition, Reception class teachers visit the children in the nursery environment and children are invited to join in events, such as harvest festival and May Day celebrations.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is inadequate

On the day of the inspection, the manager did not ensure the procedures to monitor access to the building were implemented effectively. Suitable recruitment procedures are in place and all adults working with children undergo Disclosure and Barring Service checks. A sufficient number of staff are appropriately qualified. However, this is not having a positive impact on the quality of teaching and, therefore, children are not sufficiently challenged to make best progress in their learning. Appraisals are completed with staff, and some training needs have been identified. However, the manager's supervision of the staff is not rigorous enough to assess and mentor the staff, in order to improve the quality of teaching across the whole staff team. Self-evaluation is completed and procedures are in place to monitor children's progress and any gaps in the delivery of the educational programmes. Management and staff recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and know how to respond if they have concerns about a child in their care. Parents comment positively about nursery.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY314576
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	856763
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	55
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	Rothersthorpe Nursery Limited
Date of previous inspection	2 June 2010
Telephone number	01604 831 263

Rothersthorpe Nursery Ltd. was registered in 2005. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2, including one member of staff with Early Years Professional status. 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.

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