

Heath Hayes Early Learners

Heath Hayes Cp School, Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes, Cannock, Staffordshire,
WS12 2EP

Inspection date	1 June 2015
Previous inspection date	21 July 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The provider did not undertake enough checks on the performance of a temporary manager. Consequently, good practice was not maintained and accurate assessments of children's achievements have not been completed.
- There is a very new and highly qualified staff team and manager in place. However, the quality of teaching is too variable because staff still do not have enough accurate information about all children's prior and current achievements.

It has the following strengths

- The new manager has undertaken a full and accurate audit of the quality of the provision. She has taken swift and effective action to address most identified weaknesses.
- The new staff team know what best practice looks like. They have made a number of changes to improve children's care and learning.
- The staff team are on track to help all children to make good progress in their learning and development. They are continually reviewing and evaluating each session and planned activity. This is helping them to get to know what children know and can do.
- Staff keep children safe and secure. They place a good focus on promoting children's well-being. Children are settled and happy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure all activities are challenging and well matched to children's abilities by working in partnership with parents to establish accurate assessments of their achievements.

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

- make sure good practice is achieved, maintained and built upon by making regular and robust checks on the performance of the manager.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at children's records, a record of staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks. She looked at a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures, self-evaluation and action plans.

Inspector

Christine Armstrong

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Teaching is not consistently good because not enough accurate information has been obtained about what some children already know and can do. This means some activities are not well matched to all children's abilities to ensure good levels of challenge. At times, some children lose interest or do not become fully engaged in activities. As a result, children are not always making the best possible progress in their learning. Children are taking part in a good variety of activities that are designed to help develop listening, speaking and thinking skills. They are developing their mathematical skills because staff are focusing well on providing lots of opportunities for them to see, hear and use numbers, size and shape. Children initiate their own play and follow their own interest in the re-organised indoor and outdoor areas. Some children enjoy practising their early writing skills. They spend time concentrating to write recognisable letters and numbers. Children learn about nature and play imaginatively and creatively, using a variety of resources. They are getting ready for starting school by spending time each week in the Reception class of the school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Children have the support they need to help them become familiar with new staff and to settle well when they first start. They take part in adult-led discussions that help them to begin to understand and follow rules, such as walking indoors and washing hands before snack. This helps children to begin to develop their understanding about staying safe and healthy. Children show friendly behaviour towards each other. They are encouraged to form good relationships with other children and staff. They play cooperatively with resources and spend time talking to each other. Children are becoming more confident and independent as they are encouraged to carry out tasks for themselves. Children spend time outdoors throughout the day, which encourages them to become active and develop their physical skills.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The knowledgeable and experienced new manager is working effectively with the new staff team and provider to address areas of weakness in the provision. Swift action has been taken to work more effectively in partnership with parents and other professionals to identify and meet the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. However, not enough focus has been given to obtaining information from all parents to establish a swift and accurate picture of all children's learning needs. Good focus has been given to ensuring the environment, routines and care promote children's good health and safety. Staff have undertaken training in child protection and first aid. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure all adults are suitable to work with children. However, the provider does not have robust enough arrangements in place to make sure all recent improvements are maintained and that standards continue to improve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY370814
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	858021
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	Open Space Nurseries Ltd
Date of previous inspection	21 July 2009
Telephone number	01543 276947

Heath Hayes Early Learners was registered in 2008. The nursery employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6 and two at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday term time only. Sessions are from 8.50am until 3.10pm. The provision receives funding for the provision of free early education for three- and four-year-olds. The provision supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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