

The Rocking Horse Nursery

81 Heanor Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 8DY



Inspection date	24 April 2018
Previous inspection date	1 August 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Inadequate	4
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Inadequate	4

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- Assessments of children's learning are not precise enough to ensure that all gaps in development are identified and quickly addressed. This means that not all children are provided with enough challenge to make good progress in their learning.
- Staff do not have high enough expectations of children. Teaching does not consistently build on what children already know and can do. Children are not always supported to take responsibility for their behaviour or helped to understand how their negative behaviour affects others.
- Staff do not consistently engage with parents to share ongoing information about their children's learning and development at home.
- The arrangements for supervising, monitoring and coaching staff are not effective. The manager has not successfully identified weaknesses in the quality of teaching to help staff improve their skills and raise outcomes for children.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are caring towards the children and develop positive relationships with them. They recognise the importance of working with other professionals who are involved with children in order to support children's individual needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ improve how staff assess children's learning to ensure that any gaps in development are identified and targeted promptly to help all children make good progress 	10/05/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ raise the quality of teaching and ensure that all children are fully supported to engage in challenging activities that build on what they already know and can do 	10/05/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that staff help children from a young age to develop social skills and understand the boundaries and expectations for their behaviour 	10/05/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ work closely with parents to encourage them to contribute more information about their children's learning and to help them further support their child's progress at home 	10/05/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ implement appropriate arrangements for the supervision of staff, providing effective coaching and support to improve teaching practice and raise outcomes for children. 	10/05/2018

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Tina Garner

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

The manager does not accurately identify weaknesses in staff's skills and so does not help them to improve the quality of their teaching. Consequently, children do not make good progress in their learning. Assessment and planning procedures are not effective to ensure that children make progress from the outset. Although most members of staff hold early years qualifications, this has a limited impact on the quality of teaching. The manager monitors some aspects of the provision, with support from the local authority. However, the systems used for checking and reviewing what is working and what needs improvement are not rigorous enough to identify clear priorities. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an up-to-date knowledge of child protection and safeguarding issues, including the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inadequate

Weaknesses in teaching and assessment have a significant impact on children's learning and development. Staff fail to precisely measure children's progress to ensure they meet their individual needs. As a result, their planning does not accurately take into account what children need to learn next. Staff do not offer sufficiently targeted support for children or address the gaps in their learning. Staff generally pay attention to more vocal children, leaving some children to play alone without much adult interaction. Older children benefit from finding out about the world around them as they enthusiastically take part in a bug hunt in the outdoor play area. They enjoy easy access to a variety of outdoor resources, including art and mark-making materials and small-world resources. Children in the toddler room enjoy messy and role-play activities, while babies freely explore cause-and-effect toys.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Children's overall well-being is not sufficiently promoted. Staff do not fully engage with parents to enable them to contribute to assessments of their children's development from the start. They do not consistently promote the continuity of learning into the home. Although staff deal with minor conflicts, younger children are not fully supported to understand that their negative behaviour affects others. Staff working with the older children do not help them to take responsibility for negotiating and resolving problems when playing with their peers. Nevertheless, staff support children's care needs. Babies and toddlers are given cuddles to soothe them when they become upset, while the oldest children confidently approach staff for help. Children have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise and snacks and meals are healthy. This supports children to lead healthy lifestyles. Staff provide encouragement and praise and model good manners.

Outcomes for children are inadequate

Outcomes for children are not good enough. Children do not make sufficient progress from their starting points. Some children lack the confidence to develop relationships and so they play alone, while other children do not always understand what is expected of them. Children are gaining some independence. They enjoy sensory activities and demonstrate appropriate physical skills, such as climbing and balancing, as they play on

the larger equipment outside. However, gaps in children's learning are not closing quickly enough and children are not well enough prepared for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	206286
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	1103119
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 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	94
Name of registered person	The Rocking Horse Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP910236
Date of previous inspection	1 August 2014
Telephone number	0115 930 5240

The Rocking Horse Nursery registered in 1990. The nursery employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3, two at level 2 and one at level 5. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round except for bank holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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