

The Oaks Nursery

JARRETTS YARD CHURCH STREET, DISS, NORFOLK IP22 4DD



Inspection date	4 October 2018
Previous inspection date	31 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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

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

- Staff do not ensure that the learning environment provides challenging and engaging experiences for all children.
- At times, staff do not ensure that routine activities meet the needs of all children in the nursery.

It has the following strengths

- The newly appointed manager is passionate about her role. She works closely with her small team and together they have implemented some changes, such as improving planning. The manager has a detailed plan for how she will continue to improve the quality of the provision.
- Staff are caring and friendly. They support children to learn to share and take turns with popular toys and resources. Staff attend particularly well to children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities with their individual needs.
- Outdoors, children enjoy physical play. Staff complete daily checks on the premises to ensure that all areas used by the children are safe and suitable. Children follow staff's rules to keep themselves and others safe.
- Staff keep parents well informed about their children's day. Parents comment that they are happy with the nursery and their children enjoy attending. They speak positively about the changes that have been made to the nursery and comment that they enjoy viewing photographs of what their children have done.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due date
improve the quality of provision to ensure that all children experience engaging and challenging experiences to support them to make good progress.	03/12/2018

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

- adapt the organisation of routine whole-group activities to effectively meet the differing needs of all children.

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of the risk assessment process following information we received about this provider.
- 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 during the inspection. She completed a joint observation of an activity with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the management team. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took account of parents views. She spoke to parents during the inspection and looked at parent questionnaires.

Inspector
Karen Harris

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

Procedures are in place, such as regular staff meetings and supervisions, to support staff practice and share ideas. However, these are not yet effective to secure consistently good quality teaching. Nevertheless, the provider ensures that staff attend specific training to help them in their role. Safeguarding is effective. Staff fully understand their responsibility to keep children safe. They are confident about the action to take if they have any concerns a child may be at risk of harm. They know how to report concerns about those who work with children. The management team follows rigorous procedures to ensure the safe recruitment of staff. They monitor aspects of the provision, such as checking on the implementation of health and safety policies. The manager uses effective methods to monitor all children's progress and identify gaps in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff offer children a suitable range of activities, which covers all of the areas of learning. However, there are times when the environment does not stimulate children and keep them motivated and interested. The quality of staff's teaching is variable. This means that children make steady rather than good progress in their development. Staff use observation and assessment to help monitor children's progress. However, some activities are not planned well enough to extend children's learning. For instance, children watch staff make play dough. Staff do not make good use of opportunities to challenge children or promote their engagement. However, at times, staff demonstrate effective teaching skills. They model some language and ask children questions. Staff encourage children to identify colours and introduce simple counting.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff adhere rigidly to routines of the day. They do not fully consider how best to organise tasks dependent upon the number of children present. For example, children stand and wait at the door while staff change other children's nappies before everyone can go outside. In addition, staff interrupt children's self-chosen play when they do not want to follow the daily routine, such as circle time. Staff ask all children to tidy away what they have chosen to do before sitting on a rug. Some children then require support from staff to join in with the group activity. Children learn suitable hygiene routines, such as handwashing before eating. They experience sociable mealtimes and enjoy a broad range of nutritious snacks and healthy meals. Staff consider children's dietary needs at mealtimes. They inform parents about the food provided for their children.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are generally making expected progress from their starting points. However, the inconsistencies in teaching mean children do not make the best possible progress in their learning. Children develop some key skills in readiness for the next stage of learning, including their move on to school. For example, they are becoming more independent as they serve themselves lunch and pour drinks. Children use musical instruments to explore the different sounds they make. They listen well to stories, pointing to and making suggestions about the pictures. Some children are keen to identify letters and learn to write their name.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433777
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10079833
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	16
Name of registered person	Alpha Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP900801
Date of previous inspection	31 July 2015
Telephone number	01379 651906

The Oaks Nursery registered in 2011 and is managed by Alpha Nurseries Limited. The nursery employs four members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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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