

Active Learning Kingston Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY373981
Inspection date	13/03/2009
Inspector	Lindsay Ann Farenden
Setting address	Victoria Hall, Victoria Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 3DW
Telephone number	0203 031 4700
Email	helen.murray@active-learn.co.uk
Type of setting	Childcare on non-domestic premises

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the setting

Active Learning Kingston Nursery opened in 2008 and is situated close to Kingston Town Centre in the London borough of Kingston. It operates from a large purpose built building in which there is easy access to the ground floor and there is a lift to the first floor. There are different studio rooms used by children together with bathroom, kitchen and staff facilities. The nursery operates a free flow system where children move, with their mentors, to art and dance studios and sensory room during the course of their day. Children have access to three fully enclosed outdoor areas for physical play. The nursery operates a web cam system in rooms where children play and in the playground areas of the nursery. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07.30 until 18.30 for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery support children with learning difficulties and or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is registered to care for a maximum of 98 children in the early years age group. There are currently 57 children on roll and 10 are in receipt of early years funding. The nursery is registered on the following registers; Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register and Voluntary Childcare Register.

The nursery works in partnership with the local authority early years advisory team.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. Children flourish in this exciting and vibrant early years setting, where they are cared for by dedicated and inspirational practitioners who recognise and value every child as an individual. Children are cared for in a clean, safe and nurturing environment in which they are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The management team are very aware of the strengths and areas for improvement within the setting, and working with staff who constantly strive to improve the outcomes for children who attend the nursery.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure a daily record of the children's departure times are maintained

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children benefit immensely from the excellent facilities at this nursery and the exceptionally well organised routines and engaging programmes of activities. The management team have clear objectives, defined roles and responsibilities. They are totally committed to the nursery promoting an inclusive environment in which

every child matters. The thorough recruitment system and comprehensive induction programme ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Robust policies and procedures underpin the very efficient day to day running of the nursery. Regular staff meeting and one to one supervision sessions with staff are used to monitor and evaluate practice and to plan continuing improvements to the setting. This is demonstrated by an action plan in place for improvements to the outside area. All required records and documentation is in place and methodically organised. However children's departure times are not always maintained.

Staff receive clear leadership and children benefit from highly qualified and skilled practitioners who have a very good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff are expected to attend training to keep their childcare knowledge updated. The excellent use of space, resources and the very effective deployment of staff really enhances opportunities for children to learn and provide for their care needs.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the nursery because staff value and respect their individuality and the family context of each child. There are systems in place to actively support children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. Staff are sensitive to children for whom English is an additional language and gather words in the child's home language to help communicate with them.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being in the nursery. Parents contribute to an initial assessment of their child, which ensures staff have a good knowledge of their individual needs and achievements. This helps staff to build on what children already know. Parents receive a wealth of information about what the nursery offers to their children and includes the policies and procedures. Parents are kept abreast of current events taking place in the nursery via newsletters, emails and a notice board. This enables parents to have discussions with children about their day at the nursery and extend their learning at home. Parents are kept very well informed of their child's progress through parents' evenings and twice yearly report. Each child has their own development folder which contains, photographs, observations of children's achievements and art work, which are given to parents when their child leaves, to treasure in the years to come.

The staff have a thorough understanding of creating a clean, safe and welcoming environment. Daily risk assessments are undertaken on all areas of the premises. Children's safety is ensured on outings due to the rigorous outing procedures. The video camera system throughout the nursery and in the grounds gives top priority to children's safety. Children learn to keep themselves safe because the staff teach them the importance of using the stairs safely and how to cross roads. Fire fighting equipment is in place and exits are kept clear. Staff are aware of fire evacuation procedures and these are practised with the children. Effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare within the setting.

Staff are excellent role models for children, providing positive praise and encouragement which ensures they develop high self esteem and confidence.

Children behave very well because they thoroughly enjoy their exciting day at the nursery and are constantly busy in purposeful play.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The premises are extremely well organised. Children are based in rooms appropriate to their age group and also continually move around the nursery during the day using very well equipped rooms, such as the art studio, dance and music studio, sensory room and outside area. These, along with very effective teaching methods, provide children with many wonderful stimulating experiences and activities to fully enhance their development and learning.

Children are very happy in the nursery and are making extremely good progress, because staff are skilled in planning rich and inspiring play opportunities. There are highly effective systems to observe, record, monitor and plan experiences for every individual child so they are fully challenged in their next step towards the early learning goals. Staff are extremely attentive to the children and use constant spontaneous opportunities to extend their learning through questioning and conversation.

Babies have plenty of space to move around and choose their own play experiences. They busily explore manufactured toys and lots of happy laughter takes place as babies enjoy playing with shredded paper. Staff endeavour to spend one to one time with them and early communication skills are well supported through these high quality adult and child interactions. Babies very much enjoy the massage sessions in the comfort of the sensory room.

Music sessions are extremely popular with all children including babies. They very much enjoy learning about sounds as they play musical instruments. They sing songs in a hearty manner as they very enthusiastically dance and move to music around the studio. Children show very good expression as they use their bodies to capture real and imaginative experiences. For example, using their fingers as creeping snails. Even young children can recognise different composers' music, because this is taught in a meaningful and fun way.

Children are fascinated by the wonderment of nature as they watch caterpillars develop into butterflies and then release them. They have fun growing cress in a clear container, watching it grow and exploring the roots. All children have extensive opportunities to create their own designs using art materials and exploring texture enabling them to express themselves fully through a wide range of media. Lots of conversation between children takes place as they willingly take turns to paint portraits of each other using a glass frame. Children have lots of opportunities to write for a variety of purposes and their pre writing skills are developing extremely well as they use paint brushes, chalks, crayons and pencils to mark make. Children avidly listen to stories read by staff and enjoy using the cosy book areas. Children have frequent use of up to date computers, where they soon master how to log on and use the mouse in response to educational programmes. Staff use everyday routines to extend their mathematical skills and children rise to the challenge by bringing over the correct number of cups after

counting the number of children at the table. During free play children enjoy a wealth of resources and toys to develop their imaginations, counting, measuring and mathematical skills.

Physical activity is a fully inclusive part of the daily programme. Toddlers enjoy jumping in the ball pool and yoga sessions. Children manoeuvre wheeled toys with great excitement and the real traffic light in the garden adds to this experience.

Children learn to value differences and similarities through photographs of themselves displayed throughout the nursery and toys which reflect positive images of diversity fully integrated into everyday play. They develop positive attitudes to others through discussion and celebrations of a diverse range of festivals and religious events. Exciting supervised outings to the park and to see trains and boats develops children's awareness of the local community.

Meal times are very pleasurable occasions for children in which they relax and eat with great gusto. Children's fondness for healthy eating is promoted through a well balanced and nutritious diet of organic foods cooked on the premises. Exceptional care is taken to ensure children with dietary requirements have suitable appetising meals and snacks to meet their needs. Drinking water is always available. Children's self-care skills are enhanced by the provision of excellent cloakroom facilities. They wash their hands and clean their teeth with great enthusiasm and with excellent guidance from the staff.

Staff are able to respond quickly to any accidents that may occur as first aid boxes are easily accessible in every room throughout the nursery and the majority of staff are first aid trained. Parents give prior written consent for staff to administer medication, which ensures they receive the correct dosage according to their needs.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.