

The Factory Community Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	131684
Inspection date	30/03/2009
Inspector	Gillian Dyson
Setting address	107 Matthias Road, London, N16 8NP
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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 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).

Description of the setting

The Factory Nursery was originally registered in 2005, but then re-registered on a slightly different site whilst the original building was built onto. It was then re-registered in 2008 as the new building. The setting is run by The Factory Community Project and Youth Centre. It is a purpose- built nursery on two floors, in the Newington Green area of the London Borough of Islington. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The nursery opens five days a week, 49 weeks of the year, from 08:00 to 18:00.

There are currently 49 children aged from two to under five years on roll, including nine funded three year-olds and five funded four year-olds. The nursery currently supports children for whom English is an additional language.

The nursery employs eight full-time staff and two part-time staff plus a cook. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification. The setting was involved in the Islington's College Assurance Kitemark and received a satisfactory judgement although the LA withdrew from the scheme and the certificate was never granted. There is disabled access into the building and a lift is in place.

This setting is registered on the Early Years Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is good. The Factory Nursery serves its community well. There is a good and developing range of indoor and outdoor learning and activity that helps the children develop socially, emotionally and physically. Relationships between staff and children are positive and provide a secure environment in which children can take risks and extend their learning. Parents feel welcomed and find the nursery a place where they can also develop in ways that enhance their children's futures. The nursery serves its diverse community well and has an inclusive ethos. It has good capacity to improve further. The informal links with the school are underdeveloped and not used effectively enough to enhance the provision further.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- find opportunities to demonstrate different styles of writing around the nursery alongside work displayed
- use evaluative comments rather than descriptions in children's profile books

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The leadership and management of the nursery are good. The head of the children's centre, who oversees the management of the nursery, is well qualified to extend and develop staff and has much expertise in enhancing the skills of parents and carers to ensure the children benefit from their education. Both she and the nursery manager ensure that communication across the children's centre and the nursery is effective. The nursery manager monitors the quality of provision to review for improvements and to measure impact on standards. The self-evaluation form evaluates the impact of the provision well and development areas are addressed in the nursery action plan. The manager of the nursery has addressed the changes required from the last inspection very well. Child protection procedures meet government guidelines. Training is well honed to individual need and allows the needs of staff to be well met. Records are kept of the children's work and a variety of photographs depicts their various stages of development and skill acquisition. Children say 'We learn here!' Staff induction procedures have been effective for new staff and they have a clear understanding of policy and practice. Resources are used well and the small outside play area is used to maximum advantage.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The nursery offers a broad range of early years provision for the children in its care. Key workers identify specific interests of the children and develop these in partnership with parents. There are good opportunities given for the early stages of writing to develop and the work on letters and sounds enhances the early reading development. Children are guided in their development of speaking and listening using a variety of songs and rhymes and stories. Safeguarding practices ensure that children are safe and staff are appropriately qualified. The premises were recently upgraded and offer both indoor and outdoor space with much new furniture, equipment and toys that are well suited to the early years. Documentation is well maintained and records kept of accidents, medical needs and other health and safety issues.

Learning is well planned around the early learning goals and records are maintained well to ensure that gaps in learning are addressed. Children are given a good balance of adult-led activities such as finger painting, building models and mark-making as well as the child-initiated activities such as bicycling and playing with soft balls. Much time is spent in the outdoor area where motor skills are developed through catching and throwing. Children work and play well together and where a child lost his temper another was there to help him get back on task in a supportive manner. Children are happy in their learning and staff regularly find opportunities to reflect on previous learning or to extend learning. Regular observations are made of children at work and play. These are mainly followed by development points to enhance learning, but this is not yet a systematic practice throughout the nursery.

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?	2
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?	2
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	2
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	2

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
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?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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