

Kate Greenaway Nursery School & Children's Centre

York Way Court, London, N1 0UH

Inspection date 4–5 June 2014

Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected	
Access to services by young children and families		Good	2
The quality of practice and services		Good	2
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management		Good	2

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is a good centre

- This warm and friendly centre is at the heart of the community it serves. Staff are highly committed to improving the opportunities for all families, particularly those from priority groups.
- Leaders have been very successful at increasing the number of families who register, access and engage with the centre. They have very good knowledge of the local community.
- Joint working with health care professionals has enabled the centre to secure improvements in the health and well-being of young children and their families.
- Excellent multi-agency partnerships and the good use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) procedures ensure children in most need receive early help. This support helps to keep children safe and well protected.
- The centre leader provides strong leadership. This, together with effective governance and the support of the local authority, is the driving force behind the centre's continued improvement.

It is not outstanding because:

- Half of eligible two-year-olds do not take up their free nursery entitlement.
- The systems for monitoring adults accessing further education or employment are not sufficiently developed. There are not enough opportunities for adults to access courses that help improve their long-term employability. Information about the progress of adults is not tracked and analysed carefully enough.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Ensure that most two-year-old children who are eligible for free early education take up their place by working with partners and parents to promote this entitlement.
- Extend opportunities for more adults, especially those seeking employment, to prepare for work by:
 - increasing participation rates in adult learning programmes to aid progression into further education and employment
 - developing systems for measuring the long-term impact of the centre's work to demonstrate how well adults benefit from training courses in preparing them for work
 - ensuring that data on adults participating in learning programmes are analysed in sufficient detail, in order to give centre leaders, governors and the advisory board a clear picture of the impact of services on families in most need.

Information about this inspection

The inspection of this children's centre was carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006 as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

The inspection was carried out by two additional inspectors.

The inspectors held meetings with the centre leader, the family support and outreach area manager, representatives from the local authority, and partners from health, education and the local community. They also met parents, volunteers and representatives from the governing body and advisory board. The centre manager and the family support and outreach area manager attended all meetings of the inspection team.

Visits to activities, such as 'Chatterpillars', 'Understanding the World Stay and Play' and a class for those who speak English as an additional language (ESOL), were undertaken. All observations were undertaken jointly with centre staff. The inspectors looked at the centre's self-evaluation, action planning, a sample of case files, safeguarding practice, policy and procedures, and a range of other relevant documentation.

Inspection team

David Scott, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

Joan Lindsay

Additional Inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

Kate Greenaway Nursery and Children's Centre was designated in August 2004 as a stand-alone centre and delivers a range of services including health, parenting classes, play and learn groups, family support and adult learning. The children's centre shares its site with Kate Greenaway Nursery School (URN 100385) which is subject to separate inspection arrangements. The report can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

The centre is managed by the governing body of Kate Greenaway Nursery School, made up of local community, local authority and parent representatives, to provide strategic leadership. There is also an advisory board shared with a neighbouring children's centre, comprised of key partners. The headteacher of the Kate Greenaway Nursery School is also the children's centre leader. The centre works in partnership with Bemerton Children's Centre, and offers a number of shared services, but was not part of this inspection.

The community served by the centre includes 594 children under five years of age. It is situated in one of the most densely populated areas nationally. All children in the area served by the centre are deemed to live in the least advantaged area of the country. Information shows that 25% of children live in workless households, with 65% living in social housing.

Just over a quarter of all families are White British. One in five families are from minority ethnic groups, 15% being from Mixed backgrounds, 12% from Bangladeshi and 11% from any Other White British heritages. Children's skills and abilities on entry to early education are below the levels expected for their age.

The centre has identified lone parents, those from workless households, families of minority ethnic backgrounds, and children living in poverty as its main target groups.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families **Good**

- This centre provides a welcoming environment for parents and their children. Over recent years, centre leaders have been very proactive in promoting its activities and the benefits of the wide range of services on offer. As a result, both registration and engagement levels have increased.
- Through its highly effective work with its key partners in health and housing, centre staff know the community well. At 81%, the very large majority of families are engaged in centre services, including the large majority of priority families in most need.
- The centre's information shows that all three- and four-year-olds and 50% of eligible two-year-old children are accessing their funded early education place and are successfully helped to get ready for school.
- The very large majority of lone parents and families from minority ethnic groups engage well with the centre because staff have a clear understanding of the available services and provide sessions such as language classes to meet their needs.
- The large majority of families living in poverty or from workless households engage increasingly well with the centre. All priority groups receive a warm and friendly welcome

at all the activities run by the centre; this is one of the main reasons families keep returning.

- Services held in the community and opportunities for staff with particular expertise to work across the area ensure a wide range of activities are available for families. Family support workers have an excellent knowledge of the often very difficult issues facing many families, including isolation and financial crisis. Baby clinics and services for expectant parents held in other schools have resulted in increasing registrations and engagement of families in most need.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- There is a good range of activities open to all as well as those especially designed for priority groups. For example, the 'Chatterpillars' and 'Understanding the World Stay and Play' activities help parents to give their children the best start through programmes that are specially designed to improve their parenting skills. As one parent commented, 'This has been a great centre for me to attend and has helped me to connect with the local community. Staff here always go the extra mile.'
- Specific sessions that actively promote the benefits of breastfeeding to new mothers have resulted in impressive improvements in outcomes. For example, at 80%, the proportion of mothers who continue breastfeeding at six-to-eight weeks is well above local and national averages.
- Effective work takes place to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. For example, oral health and immunisation rates have also improved, but are just slightly under the centre's targets. Over time, the proportion of Reception-age children who are obese has decreased, but at 13%, is currently above the national level.
- In 2013, a slightly higher percentage of children achieved a good level of development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, than that found locally and nationally. The centre's own information for 2014, verified by the local authority, shows that the large majority of children who access the nursery are on target to achieve a good level of development.
- Staff have been successful in creating opportunities for volunteers. For example, over the past two years, 10 adults have completed a range of training activities and qualifications. As a result, 60% have proceeded into training or further education, 30% into employment, and 10% into further volunteering. Leaders acknowledge that more needs to be done to help adults achieve higher levels of engagement.
- Adult learning courses and referrals for employment advice, with agencies such as Jobcentre Plus, help improve the economic well-being of the majority of priority families. The centre holds some information about the short-term achievements of adults. For example, case studies indicate good individual support and training where the majority of adults gain some form of qualification or progress to further training, education or paid employment. However, the systems to track the longer-term impact of these adult learning and employment opportunities are not yet fully developed. Consequently, this prevents the centre helping adults progress more quickly to develop their skills or gain access to employment.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- Leaders are highly ambitious to make the centre the best it can be, and they are supported by all staff to meet the needs of families. Together, they have driven

improvements in access and quality of practice. The work of the centre is regularly reviewed and the highly committed staff readily embrace change when new developments are identified.

- Staff feel very well supported in their roles; they see supervision and the many training opportunities as a very positive feature of leadership of the centre. They are well qualified and are enabled to develop and keep abreast of new developments to extend their knowledge and expertise.
- The safeguarding of young children and their families is a very high priority for the centre. Staff use the electronic Common Assessment Framework processes (eCAF) well to assess families' needs. As a result of close inter-agency working with health and children's social care services, centre staff are able to intervene early and prevent issues escalating. Children who are looked after, subject to child protection plans, and those deemed to be children in need are very well supported.
- Governance arrangements are clearly understood. The governing body and advisory board are made up of a range of professional partners as well as parents who provide support and challenge to ensure the centre is reducing the inequalities among different priority groups in the area. Parents' views are regularly sought through the work of the advisory board and the parent forum.
- Key partners, parents and leaders meet regularly, to check progress and agree action plans, which include targets in the development plan to ensure the continuing success of the centre. The local authority is supportive and sets challenging priorities for improving the lives of families who are in most need.
- Centre leaders have a good understanding of the overall strengths and weaknesses of the centre. However, data on the progress of adults are not always analysed in sufficient detail, in order to give a clear picture of the impact of services on families.
- The sharing of resources and services with the neighbouring centre enables highly efficient use of available funds, in order to meet the needs of young children and their families. The centre leader is held to account for the centre's performance, by the local authority and governors. She has been particularly successful in securing additional funding to improve the very attractive outside area and to build two new rooms.

What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Practice consistently reflects the highest aspirations for children and their families and, as a result, inequalities are reducing rapidly and gaps are closing.
Grade 2	Good	Practice enables most children and their families to access good quality services that improve children's wellbeing and achieve the stated outcomes for families.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	Performance is not as good as it might reasonably be expected to be in one or more key areas.
Grade 4	Inadequate	The needs of children and families in its area are not being met and/or the leaders and managers are not providing sufficient challenge to bring about improvement to the quality of services.

Centre

Unique reference number	21638
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	444724
Managed by	The governing body of Kate Greenaway Nursery School on behalf of the local authority.

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	594
Centre leader	Fiona Godfrey
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
Telephone number	020 7527 4850
Email address	fiona.godfrey@islington.gov.uk

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