

Tom Thumb Day Nursery

1-7 Beulah Path, London, E17 9LZ



Inspection date

30 January 2015

Previous inspection date

28 June 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff create welcoming, attractive and spacious play environments, both indoors and outdoors. Parents appreciate staff's friendly and helpful approach. Children are well settled and respectful of others.
- Staff in the baby and toddler rooms organise a wide choice of free play activities. They are effective in promoting children's learning through play, enabling children to make good progress given their individual starting points.
- Staff in the pre-school room make good use of adult-led group activities to extend children's learning in the key areas of language, literacy and mathematics. Therefore children are well prepared for their future learning at school.
- The manager is proactive in developing close relationships between parents, staff and children. This enables him to organise appropriate support and intervention, when necessary, to meet children's differing care and learning needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The system of observational assessment is not fully effective in enabling staff to determine exactly children's starting points and continuing stages of development.
- In the pre-school room there is a slight imbalance towards adult-led activities, with children not always having a wide variety of free choice learning opportunities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for pre-school children to learn individually through participating in free play activities
- develop the system of observational assessment further to enable staff to focus more effectively on children's specific learning needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.
- The inspector spoke with staff and observed their teaching.
- The inspector talked with the manager and with some parents.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector sampled documentation with particular reference to documents relating to children's progress and safeguarding.

Inspector

Jill Nugent

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff provide good quality teaching overall, enabling children to learn in different ways. For example, children find out about the properties of jelly and glue as they explore creatively. Staff get to know their key children well and take into account their interests when planning activities. Overall, they are aware of children's individual stages of development and how to move children on. However staff do not assess exactly children's starting points, or their continuing development, to ensure that they focus fully on children's specific learning needs. Staff interact well with toddlers during free play, helping them to learn, for instance, about letters, numbers and shapes. Pre-school staff extend this learning at group times by, for example, teaching children to use letter sounds and solve problems. However, adult-led group activities tend to predominate at times. Therefore pre-school children have fewer opportunities to learn by developing their own free play.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff are particularly effective in organising a comfortable, homely environment for children. As a consequence children feel secure and really enjoy being at nursery. They are attentive to staff at group times and understand the need to take turns during play. Babies enjoy the opportunities to explore freely, while having staff alongside to support and assist. Older children gain confidence as they make choices and respond to questions from staff. Children benefit from the provision of healthy and nutritious meals as well as good opportunities to play outdoors. In the large outdoor area children choose from a wide range of interesting resources, such as books, paints and bikes. They especially like the large sand pit and raised digging bed. They grow and eat their own vegetables. These stimulating outdoor learning experiences help children to keep fit and healthy.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager motivates staff through his enthusiasm and commitment. As a result staff work effectively as a team in providing good care and support for individual children. Staff are well trained in safeguarding. They are particularly vigilant about record-keeping and appropriate first aid. New parents receive useful information about the nursery provision, including the educational programme. Parents comment that they find the relaxed settling-in procedures especially helpful. The manager organises regular staff appraisals and encourages staff to seek extra training whenever possible. He works closely with his deputy to monitor the effectiveness of teaching and learning. In this way he is able to ensure that staff regularly observe children, plan appropriate activities and share progress reports with parents. Staff liaise with other professionals when offering children extra support, for example, for speech problems. The manager encourages staff to reflect on their practice continually so that he can highlight areas for further improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY340450
Local authority	Waltham Forest
Inspection number	828368
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	45
Name of provider	Little Angels (London) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 June 2012
Telephone number	02085 201 329

Tom Thumb Nursery registered in 2008. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The nursery is owned by Little Angels London Ltd and operates from a purpose-built building in Walthamstow in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. The nursery is open every weekday from 8am to 6pm for 49 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early years education to children aged three and four years. The nursery employs ten members of staff, most of whom hold relevant early years qualifications.

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