

Acorn Pre - School

Old Oak Community Centre, 76 Braybrook Street, LONDON, W12 0AP



Inspection date	30 January 2015
Previous inspection date	15 March 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- Children make good progress in their learning and development because they are excited and motivated by the wide range of fun and stimulating activities staff provide.
- Staff use observation, tracking and assessment systems to ensure all children are challenged and reach their full potential.
- Children behave well due to the good support they receive from staff. This enables children to learn to play and share together, and creates an extremely positive atmosphere throughout the pre-school.
- Children follow good hygiene routines. They enjoy healthy snacks, which promotes their good health.
- Staff have good relationships with parents. Discussions with parents demonstrate that they are very happy with the care and learning opportunities offered to their children.
- The management team shares a strong commitment to the continuous development of the pre-school's practice. They have high expectations of staff and children, which helps to drive improvement.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, some staff are not consistent in encouraging children to develop their thoughts and ideas during story time. This sometimes leads to children losing interest and opportunities to engage them being lost.
- Children have limited opportunities to use their senses to support their creativity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- find ways to engage all children as well as possible during story time
- develop more opportunities for children to use their senses to enhance their creative development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children's activities and staff's interaction with the children.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector examined a sample of children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children, and the provider's procedures for self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and took account of their views during the inspection.

Inspector

Yasmine Hurley

Inspection findings

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

Staff promote children's learning and development well in a welcoming and friendly environment. Staff interact well with children and support children's language and communication skills throughout their daily activities and routines. For example, they use activities such as circle time and snack time to ask children questions to encourage them to think critically and respond appropriately. Staff read to the children in the cosy story room. However, on some occasions, some staff do not encourage all children in the room to join in with the story, which impacts on some children's enjoyment and opportunities to develop their literacy skills. Children benefit from some creative play opportunities, such as, enjoying role-play activities and exploring with small world people and animals. However, staff offer limited opportunities for children to use their senses to explore messy play activities, such as play dough and sand. Staff introduce mathematical concepts within children's play to help them develop their problem-solving skills. For example, children sing songs involving counting and subtracting eagerly, which helps to develop skills for their future learning. Children are prepared well for school.

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

Children demonstrate a strong feeling of security and sense of belonging. Staff work closely with parents when children first start. Consequently, this helps staff to promote children's well-being and helps each child settle in smoothly. Staff promote children's independence skills well. For example, children choose from a wide range of resources and activities and help to tidy away resources into clearly labelled boxes. As a result, children develop good self-help skills for the future. Staff have a good understanding of how to promote children's health and well-being. Children play outside every day as part of a healthy lifestyle and benefit from the fresh air and exercise.

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

The manager and staff have a good understanding of their responsibility to protect and safeguard children. They are aware of the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child. Staff are vigilant in their supervision of children and conduct effective risk assessments to help them identify hazards. Management are continually looking for ways to improve the quality of the pre-school. They carry out staff supervision sessions and appraisals to identify and monitor staff performance and identify any training needs. This ensures that staff are continually updating their knowledge and skills to support good outcomes for children. Staff have a good understanding of the learning and development requirements. They monitor children's achievements closely by observing what they do. This helps to ensure that they identify any areas where children require further help. Furthermore, staff share this information with parents and other early years settings and schools children attend to maintain consistency and continuity in children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY401732
Local authority	Hammersmith & Fulham
Inspection number	844887
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Date of previous inspection	15 March 2010
Telephone number	07854320092

Acorn Pre-School registered in 2009 and is run by the Pre-School Learning Alliance. It is located in Old Oak Children's Centre in East Acton. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9.30am to 3pm during term time. The pre-school receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year old children. In total, a team of four staff work at the pre-school, all of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 2 and 3.

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