

The Ark Day Care Nursery

Lea View House, Springfield, London, E5 9DX



Inspection date

17 February 2015

Previous inspection date

27 March 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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

- Key persons and parents work together and share information about children's development and achievements. This promotes consistency of care for children between home and the nursery.
- The provider's improved security systems and good staff deployment helps to keep children safe and well supervised at all times.
- Staff interact well with children, supporting their learning during role-play activities by asking children questions which enable them to think and express their ideas.
- Children show interest in the letters of the alphabet. They are beginning to recognise their names and those of their friends on name cards and labels.
- Staff encourage babies' and young children's exploration further as they provide activities and resources to support their interests.
- Staff help children to learn how to keep themselves safe when on outings. For example, they help them to understand the importance of using pedestrian crossings where possible.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities during messy play and painting activities to help children notice patterns to develop their mathematical thinking and ideas.
- Children do not always have regular access to the climbing frame to challenge and extend their physical skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children regular opportunities to access and use the climbing play equipment in order to further develop their physical skills
- provide opportunities for children to recognise patterns in activities and everyday situations in order to enhance their mathematical thinking and ideas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had discussions with the provider and the manager.
- The inspector viewed the areas used by the children and observed the staff's interaction with the children.
- The inspector sampled some documents, which included the children's record, the record of the risk assessment, the accident and complaints records and the observation reports.
- The inspector interviewed some parents.

Inspector

Jennifer Liverpool

Inspection findings

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

The manager ensures that the staff's observation and assessment processes are consistent and reflect the children's individual needs. All staff now know how to use their observation notes to identify children's interests and achievements in order to plan purposeful learning opportunities through play. Children are independent. They attend to their personal needs such as visiting the toilet, using a tissue to blow their nose and deciding when to have a drink and snack. Older children regularly say that to share is to care for their friends. Consequently, children learn to play cooperatively and sustain positive relationships with their friends. Children are acquiring skills for when they go to school. Babies have good opportunities to use their sense of touch, hearing and observation to explore a wide range of natural and made materials. Staff support children to develop skills in counting, number recognition and shapes, though they do not help children to recognise the patterns they create in their paintings and when playing with malleable materials.

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

The key persons gather all relevant information from the parents before children start at the nursery. This helps to ensure that the children's care routines are put in place immediately, thus enabling babies and young children to receive consistent care between home and the nursery. Children receive meals and snacks that are well balanced and nutritious, which helps develop their healthy eating practices. Children also learn the importance of eating healthily as they enjoy helping staff to select fresh fruits from the local shops for their meals. Children enjoy regular exercise outdoors and, overall, they use a suitable range of equipment, such as balancing beams and tricycles to develop their balance and coordination. However, they have few opportunities to practise climbing.

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

The staff are secure in their knowledge of safeguarding procedures. This supports children's welfare. Staff carry out regular risk assessments both indoors and outdoors to identify and quickly address potential hazards to children. The provider ensures that all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager offer staff regular opportunities for professional development through supervision and training. This enables all staff to further develop their knowledge of childcare. In addition, the provider and manager has recently employed a member of staff who holds a higher qualification in early years to help support staff to deliver the early years curriculum. Consequently, children now receive purposeful play experiences and they are progressing in their learning and development. Staff and parents work together and now share information about children's individual development and progress. This helps to enhance the continuity in children's learning. The provider has addressed previous actions and is keen to further improve the outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY437216
Local authority	Hackney
Inspection number	977749
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	Maxine Aboagye
Date of previous inspection	27 March 2014
Telephone number	02088097586

The Ark Day Care Nursery (Springfield) registered in 2011. The nursery is one of two settings run by a private individual. It is situated within a community centre in Upper Clapton in the London Borough of Hackney. The nursery has sole use of the premises it is registered for on the ground floor. Children have access to three play rooms. There is an outdoor play area to the front and rear of the premises. The setting operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year. It is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The setting provides funded nursery education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It also offers an out-of-school service, which includes dropping off and collecting school-aged children from the nearby Harrington Primary School. The setting employs nine members of staff, including the manager. Of these, one staff member holds Early Years Professional Status and five hold other appropriate early years qualifications.

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