

Chestnut Nursery Schools Ltd



1 Corry Drive, Brixton, Lambeth, SW9 8QS

Inspection date

11 February 2015

Previous inspection date

4 August 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 because staff have very good partnerships with parents and a well-established key person system.
- The manager checks assessments of children's progress thoroughly with staff and gives helpful guidance that builds on staff's expertise in planning activities to meet children's needs.
- Children have good relationships with staff. As a result, children feel safe and secure and confidently explore their learning environment.
- The provider includes parents' and staff's views during the self-evaluation process. As a result, targets for continuous improvement are well-embedded.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children sometimes have fewer resources to freely choose from during outside play because staff do not always plan for outdoor activities as consistently well as for indoor play.
- Not all staff have taken up opportunities to attend training specifically relating to working with children under two years to extend their knowledge and improve on their good practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- broaden the range of freely available resources during outside play so that all children can follow their own interests independently
- provide opportunities for staff working with babies to attend training specifically relating to working with children under two years.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed activities in all three group rooms and the outside play area.
- The lead inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspectors spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection.
- The inspectors looked at children's records, assessments and planning documents and talked to staff about how they maintain these records.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the manager and looked at evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery and samples of documents the provider is required to keep.

Inspector

Josephine Geoghegan / Christine Jacqueline Davies

Inspection findings

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

Children enjoy a broad range of activities that are well planned around their interests and individual learning needs. Children are active and inquisitive learners and benefit from a stimulating learning environment. Well-planned group sessions encourage children to use their communication and language skills effectively. Staff use lots of props and songs which interest and engage children purposefully. Stimulating creative activities enable younger children to learn new words and learn concepts such as big, small, wet, dry, while they play and explore different textures. However, children cannot always follow their own ideas when activities, such as creative projects have been set up by staff. Information about children's progress is shared effectively with parents through regular written reports and the progress check when children are aged two. Staff use consistent methods of assessment and track children's progress effectively. This ensures that any gaps in children's learning are identified and well supported. As a result, all children, including those with additional needs, make good progress in all areas of learning.

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

Children play in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere as they have strong attachments with their key person and good relationships with their peers. Staff are attentive and respond quickly to support children if they are upset. Staff working with children under two are very experienced and babies settle and thrive well in their care. Children take responsibility for their learning environment and learn about expectations of their behaviour during well-practised routines such as lining up to go outside and helping to tidy away toys. Children are supported well in learning the social skills and in increasing their independence which will help them prepare to move on to school. They play cooperatively and take turns when using wheeled toys during outside play. However, children have fewer opportunities to freely select resources and follow their own interests independently during outdoor activities. Children enjoy sociable meal times and increasingly develop their personal independence well as they serve their own foods.

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

The provider has tackled all areas for improvement following the previous inspection. Staff vetting procedures and staff training have been improved so that all safeguarding requirements are met. The manager leads effectively and enables staff to develop their skills in observation, assessment and planning through regular monitoring of plans and staffs' practice. Staff attend regular meetings and training which enhances their continuous professional development, although not all those working with children under two have completed specialist training for this age group to further enhance their practice. Strong partnership work with other agencies and parents ensures children who have additional needs are supported effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY467391
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	1005441
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Chestnut Nursery Schools Limited
Date of previous inspection	4 August 2014
Telephone number	07515170491

Chestnut Nursery School registered in 2013 and is one of 12 nurseries owned and managed by Chestnut Nursery Schools Limited. It operates from a self-contained building in Brixton in the London Borough of Lambeth. The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The nursery is open from 8am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year. There are currently 11 members of staff working at the nursery, including the manager. Eight members of staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery receives funding for providing free early years education for children aged two, three-and-four-years.

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