

Strawberry Academy

25-27 Wilcox Road, LONDON, SW8 2XA



Inspection date

2 March 2015

Previous inspection date

21 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

- Staff speak gently and calmly with the children. They skilfully involve children in activities that interest them to support their learning and progress. As a result, all children feel valued and happily explore the resources in the environment.
- Staff work in close partnership with parents to establish children's starting points and plan next steps in learning. Consequently, the individual needs of the children are effectively met.
- Staff provide children with nutritious meals that are prepared on the premises. This promotes children's health and well-being.
- The manager has close links with other groups and schools in the area. As a result, there is mutual support and information is shared with other settings that the children attend. This promotes continuity in children's education.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not fully considered the seating arrangements for babies at mealtimes to promote their social interaction with each other.
- Staff do not fully plan the outside area to support older children's reading, writing and mathematical skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance babies social interaction with each other during mealtimes by reviewing the seating arrangements
- develop the outdoor resources to further enhance children's learning in reading, writing and mathematics.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children at play and their interactions with staff indoors and outside.
- The inspector took account of the views of staff, parents and children.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of documents, including safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Geetha Ramesh

Inspection findings

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

Staff skilfully plan learning activities to suit the individual needs of children. For example, during writing activities, they provide specially designed pencils to encourage children to hold the pencil correctly. As a result, children make good progress towards next stages in their learning. However, staff do not always provide opportunities for children to practise their writing skills or to explore letters and numbers in print outdoors. This does not fully support children who learn better outside. Children benefit from fresh air as they play in the small outside area with equipment such as slides, balls and bikes that promote their physical development. Staff take children on regular outings to the park and organise indoor physical activity sessions, for example, gymnastics. This helps children develop their understanding of healthy lifestyles well.

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

Staff speak the home languages of children. Consequently, they provide effective support for younger children who are learning English as an additional language. This helps children build on their previous learning and settle in with ease. Children and staff follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands. Children brush their teeth after meals, which supports their health and well-being securely. Staff arrange babies' high chairs in a row during mealtimes, which limits children's developing social interaction with each other. Children learn to be responsible as they care for pet birds. They monitor the water level in the feeder and staff help them to refill this when it is low. This helps children learn to recognise the needs of others. Staff provide a quiet sleep area with cots and appropriate bedding for babies and young children to rest and sleep undisturbed.

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

The manager has developed thorough induction procedures that ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a sound knowledge of the signs of child abuse and the procedures to follow if they are concerned about children's welfare. Children therefore thrive in a safe environment. The manager seeks the views of parents and staff and works in close partnership with the local authority to plan for improvements. In consultation with the local authority advisors, she has reorganised the indoor resources on low-level shelves to further promote children's independence. The manager provides effective supervision meetings with individual staff to discuss any concerns and identify their professional development needs. The manager and the staff work very well as a team to provide a loving and caring environment for the children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY449600
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	968989
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	30
Name of provider	Strawberry Academy Ltd
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2014
Telephone number	02074985005

Strawberry Academy registered in 2012. It is located in the Vauxhall/Stockwell area in the London Borough of Lambeth. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. It offers full day care for nursery age children, and before and after school care for older children. The setting receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four. Of the eight members of staff, one holds qualified teacher status, and four others hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

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