

Konstam Children's Centre

75 Chester Road, London, N19 5DH



Inspection date

17 March 2015

Previous inspection date

16 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The provider does not understand or implement the safeguarding and welfare requirements adequately. This results in breaches of requirements, some of which also apply to the Childcare Register.
- Staff do not ensure that all entry points of the nursery are secure. Therefore, children are at risk of unauthorised persons entering the premises.
- Staff are not fully aware of the procedures to follow if they have safeguarding concerns about a child.
- The provider does not have a policy for the administration of children's medicines.
- Staff do not always plan effectively to ensure that all children are able to fully take part in all activities.
- Staff do not fully promote children's independence during some everyday routines.

It has the following strengths

- Staff complete regular observations and assessments and use these to plan activities for individual children, and groups of children.
- Parents speak highly of staff. They say they are kept regularly informed about their children's learning. Staff act promptly and discuss with parents any areas where they feel children might need more support.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises, with particular regard to implementing effective security measures at all entrances to the nursery
- train staff to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, ensuring these are based on Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance, and keep their knowledge up to date to promote children's welfare
- keep and implement a policy for administering medicines to children, to promote children's good health
- plan and resource activities more effectively, to ensure that all children can take part and develop their interests.

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

- provide more opportunities for children to carry out manageable tasks during everyday routines, to further promote their self-care and independence.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure that children are kept safe from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children and staff (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that children are safeguarded by effectively training staff to understand the written safeguarding policy and procedures, ensuring this knowledge is kept up to date (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).
- ensure that children are kept safe from harm (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children and staff (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises (voluntary part of the childcare register)

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and in the outdoor learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector looked at documentation, such as children's assessment records, planning documentation, policies and procedures and evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Vanessa Linehan

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff encourage parents to provide information about children's interests, likes and dislikes, which enables them to provide individualised care and learning for children. Staff monitor children's learning and development to identify and target children, or groups of children, who need further support. Staff encourage children's communication and language skills effectively through their interactions. Activities, such as singing and rhyming, help younger children to develop their vocabulary. Staff use other activities, such as playing with sand, to familiarise older children with numbers and counting. Children learning English as an additional language are encouraged to use their home languages. Staff take time to learn some key words and so support them well. Therefore, children make good progress in their language development. Children generally enjoy being at nursery. However, on occasions, some activities are not well planned to ensure that all children can take part. For example, not enough spades are provided when children are digging in the mud kitchen, which means that children become frustrated and cannot develop their interests.

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

Children's safety is compromised because staff are not vigilant enough, and security systems do not prevent unauthorised persons from accessing the nursery. This places children at risk. Children have good relationships with staff. They are provided with a warm welcome, which helps to promote children's emotional well-being. Staff work closely with parents and keep them informed each term of their child's progress. Staff plan time for children to run around and get fresh air. Children eat healthy snacks, and older children eat with staff at lunchtimes when they talk about the foods they are eating. This helps to promote healthy eating habits. However, children are not encouraged to help themselves to food and drink to develop independence. Staff have positive links with staff at local schools and share information about children's needs. This helps support children when they move on to the reception class. Staff are good role models and consistently encourage children to take turns and share.

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

Arrangements in relation to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare are poor and do not ensure children's safety sufficiently. This is because security measures are ineffective and the provider does not keep, or implement, a policy for administering medicines to children. Staff have a suitable knowledge of child protection and how to recognise the signs that may cause them to be concerned about a child, and they know how to report these. However, they do not know who to contact if these concerns are not taken forward internally. This compromises children's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	100599
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	824636
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	London Borough of Camden
Date of previous inspection	16 June 2009
Telephone number	020 7272 3594

Konstam Children's Centre registered in 1994. It is situated in Highgate, London. The children's centre is open each weekday for 49 weeks of the year. Opening times are from 8am until 6pm. There are 23 permanent members of staff, 20 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, or above. One member of staff holds Qualified Teacher Status. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

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