

Dolphin Day Nursery

243 Green Lane, MORDEN, Surrey, SM4 6SQ



Inspection date

31 March 2015

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The leadership and management team does not effectively monitor the children's learning and development to show individual, and groups of, children's progress over the year. This means they do not always identify gaps in children's learning to focus planned activities to help them make good progress.
- Staff miss some opportunities to encourage children to count and use mathematical language in their play and daily routines.

It has the following strengths

- Staff are interested in children's ideas and use questions to extend their thoughts and language skills. As a result, children are developing good communication skills.
- Staff promote children's independence. For example, they encourage children to put on their coats and boots to play outside and children help prepare their food for their snack.
- The leadership and management team has effective procedures to deal with any safeguarding issues. Staff know how to identify concerns for children's welfare and how to report them so they keep children safe.
- Staff are good role models, helping children to learn good manners and to get along with each other. Children behave well.
- Staff organise the learning environment well. Children confidently choose for themselves from the range of resources, and make decisions about their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the monitoring of individual, and groups of, children's progress so that it is thorough enough to identify any gaps in their learning.

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

- strengthen opportunities, during daily routines and activities, to encourage children's counting skills and use of mathematical language.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a meeting and carried out a joint observation with the registered individual.
- The inspector observed staff interactions with the children and held ongoing discussions with staff and children.
- The inspector took into account the parents' views spoken to on the day.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation, including a sample of the policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jacqueline Walter

Inspection findings

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

Staff use observations of the children to effectively identify children's starting points as soon as they start at the nursery. Key persons share the regular assessments of their key children with their parents. This means that parents can complement children's learning at home. However, although staff make assessments of children's progress they do not use them to identify any gaps in their learning. As a result, they do not plan effectively to help close any gaps in children's progress. Staff join in with children's play and challenge children to explore movement in different ways. They enhance children's physical skills by inviting them to catch and throw the balls into basketball nets. However, staff do not always effectively model mathematical language or encourage children to count.

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

Children benefit from close relationships with their key person, which helps promote children's confidence and security. The leaders and managers allocate each family a key person. The key persons gather good information from parents and tailor settling-in sessions to meet the needs of the child and their family. This makes a strong contribution to providing consistent care for children. Staff use praise and encouragement and are good role models. They teach the children specific vocabulary to help them be polite and make strong friendships. For example, they remind children to use words, such as, 'pardon me', 'please' and 'thank you'. As a result, children are motivated, cooperate well and acquire good skills for the future. Staff use a visual board, which shows children the routines of the day. This helps both children learning English as an additional language and the younger children to know what will happen next and feel secure. Children have daily opportunities to go outside, and enjoy visits from a dance teacher. These activities effectively contribute to children's understanding of the importance of exercise and their good health.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The leadership and management team understands how to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. They carry out suitability checks and regularly update these to ensure staff are not disqualified from working with children. They know to notify Ofsted of any changes. This helps to ensure all staff are suitable for their role. The leadership and management team implements appropriate strategies to help identify weaknesses in practice and set targets for improvements. For example, staff attended training to help improve teaching to strengthen children's language development. This has helped staff to develop children's communication and language skills more effectively. However, the leadership and management team does not monitor individual, and groups of, children's progress effectively. Therefore, gaps in some children's learning are closing too slowly.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477284
Local authority	Sutton
Inspection number	1009352
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	29
Name of provider	Deborah Thurn
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	02082881945

Dolphin Day Nursery registered in 2014. It operates from church premises in Morden, within the London Borough of Sutton. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery employs five members of staff; of these, four, including the manager hold recognised childcare qualifications.

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