

Wentworth Nursery School and Children's Centre

Cassland Road, Hackney E9 5EX

Inspection dates	1–2 April 2015
Previous inspection date	Not previously inspected

Overall effectiveness	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected	
Access to services by young children and families	Good		2
The quality of practice and services	Good		2
The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management	Good		2

Summary of key findings for children and families

This is a good centre.

- All children in the area who have less than 15 hours of early years provision have regular contact with the centre. Very good progress has been made by the centre in engaging families in the neighbourhood, which is the local authority's key priority area.
- Adults have access to a good range of training and education opportunities. As a result, many adults from workless homes have developed new skills, built their confidence and self-esteem and gained appropriate employment.
- Good partnership working with Wentworth Nursery School and childcare providers, including local childminders, has led to the large majority of children having the skills and knowledge that they require to start school.
- The centre places a high priority on ensuring the health and safety of families. It works very well with a wide range of partner organisations to keep children safe.
- The centre is led and governed well and is continually improving. Staff are committed and very skilful, with a comprehensive knowledge of the local area.
- The local authority has high expectations for the centre's performance. Successful actions have resulted in continuous improvements to the centre's work, including good-quality services and positive outcomes for all families who come to the centre.

It is not outstanding because:

- Not enough lone parents benefit fully from the good services the centre offers.
- Tracking systems to capture participation and progress in adult learning are not fully developed.
- The progress of families which access services in other centres that are part of the cluster is not always sharply tracked.

What does the centre need to do to improve further?

- Increase the participation of lone parents to make sure that most benefit fully from the good services the centre offers.
- Further develop detailed tracking systems to capture more fully participation and progress in adult learning.
- Rigorously track the progress of all families which access services in other centres that are part of the cluster to show the full impact of the centre's work.

Information about this inspection

The inspection of this children's centre was carried out under Part 3A of the Childcare Act 2006, as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

This inspection was carried out by two additional inspectors.

The inspectors held meetings with the centre manager, the headteacher of the nursery school, the local authority's strategic lead for children's centres, centre staff, representatives from a range of extended services including health, parents and representatives from the advisory board.

The inspectors visited the strategic centre for Cluster D, Daubeney's Children Centre, to observe a Multi-agency Team (MAT) session and to review family case files, which are all held there. Inspectors observed the centre's work, for example the daily 'Stay and Play' sessions, and looked at a range of relevant documentation. This included the centre's self-evaluation form, the centre improvement plan and data, safeguarding policies and procedures and some quality assurance documentation.

Inspection team

Nasim Butt, Lead inspector	Additional inspector
Patricia Collis	Additional inspector

Full report

Information about the centre

The centre has been in existence since 2008 and is located in 'Cluster D', one of six children's centre clusters in Hackney. Each cluster is made up of a strategic centre and several 'satellite' centres. Wentworth works with Daubeney Children's Centre, which is the strategic centre in Cluster D, and with three other centres: Millfields, Clapton Park and Gainsborough children's centres. This arrangement allows a range of services to be offered which include health and parenting programmes, family play sessions, adult learning and family support.

The centre is managed by Wentworth Nursery School on behalf of the local authority. The community services manager, also the centre manager, is line managed by the headteacher of the nursery school, which is inspected under separate arrangements. The inspection report can be found at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>. Governance of the centre is through an advisory board which is synonymous with the school's governing body, and includes a link governor for the children's centre.

There are approximately 825 under-five-year-old children in the area. The majority of families in the area served by the centre are of Black and minority ethnic heritage; about a quarter are White British. Most families live in the Wick and Homerton wards. The centre focuses its work in the five areas where families are in most need. Unemployment rates are high; around 41% of under-five-year-old children live in families that have no adult in work. Children's skills, knowledge and abilities on entry to early years provision are generally below levels typical for their age.

The main target groups assessed as in most need of centre services are: families in the area who are most in need of help; children not in Early Years provision or accessing less than 15 hours per week; children subject to safeguarding concerns and those at risk of underachieving; families from Black and minority ethnic groups who require early help; and lone parents and fathers.

Inspection judgements

Access to services by young children and families **Good**

- As a result of a concerted effort by staff to improve access to services, most families, including those from priority groups, are now registered. All children in the area who have less than 15 hours of early years provision use the centre on a regular basis. These children make up almost half the total of under-five-year-old children who live in the area. Most parents and families in workless households, and the large majority of those from the Black and minority ethnic communities, are known and are regularly attending centre activities.
- The centre is very good at reaching out to those families who are in most need of help and those considered to be the hardest to reach and less likely to use the centre's services. Parent-support workers attend a wide range of professional, multi-agency group meetings. As a result, they know most families living in the area. They provide timely, effective support and work successfully to help keep children safe.
- The centre works well with its key partners to identify expectant families and children under one year of age. All these families are contacted and many attend the 'First Time Tummies' and 'Baby Sure Start' programmes. Good information sharing enables leaders to plan services and activities precisely to meet their needs. As a result, staff are now successfully supporting most of these families as they prepare for the birth of their child.
- All those who are eligible for free early education are contacted and the offer is promoted effectively to them. This has resulted in the very large majority of two-year-old children taking up their offer, with all attending good or outstanding childcare settings. Almost all three- and four-year-old children take up the offer of free nursery education places.
- Although there has been a steady rise in the number of lone parents accessing services, for example by attending with their children who have access to less than 15 hours of early years

provision, the involvement of this priority group with the centre is not yet strong enough.

The quality of practice and services

Good

- Despite its small size, the centre provides a full programme of good-quality activities. There is a good balance between those available to all families and those designed to support those who need most help. Many services are offered in settings across the cluster, in particular the strategic centre, to reduce inequalities and improve the quality of life for all families who engage with the centre.
- The centre plays an active part in preparing children for school. Activities such as 'Stay and Play', and the well-established sessions run by the childminders' network, have a very positive impact. Useful information about children's progress is shared with Wentworth Nursery School and other childcare providers. This has resulted in a large number of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception year, which is significantly above the national average.
- Centre managers and partners coordinate the provision of adult learning courses effectively in order to meet local priority needs. These include helping adults gain better literacy, numeracy and personal skills in preparation for further learning or work. Staff successfully direct adults to advice, information, guidance and help with accessing learning which leads to qualifications and employment. The proportion of children living in workless homes has decreased by 3% in the past two years. However, the centre has not yet sharpened its tracking systems to capture the precise participation and progress in adult learning.
- Health outcomes are positive. Breast-feeding and immunisation rates are above national averages. The centre has been successful in contributing to the reduction in childhood obesity, which is now just slightly above the national average. This has been due to a range of initiatives which have included healthy eating and cookery classes focusing on good nutritional standards. These classes enable priority families, for example those from the Black and minority ethnic group, to learn how to eat and live more healthily.
- The large majority of those families dependant on workless benefits and living in the most disadvantaged areas, access sessions run by the centre and benefit from the advice and guidance of its staff and partners. The centre works very effectively with its partners in the cluster. This work provides additional support and access for funding in crisis, further volunteering opportunities and courses to improve debt management and budgeting. Parents told inspectors how useful this support and training was in helping them to become self-sufficient.
- Although regular attendance at courses is generally good, tracking systems to capture the participation and progress in adult learning are not fully developed. This means that the centre cannot show with precision the longer-term impact of its good work with families.

The effectiveness of leadership, governance and management

Good

- The centre is managed effectively and efficiently by the centre manager, who is ably supported by the headteacher of the nursery school. Staff know the families in the area very well and have been successful in improving outcomes for most of their priority groups, in particular the children who have access to less than 15 hours of early years provision. The centre is working on improving its engagement with lone parents, and this is improving steadily.
- Strong governance ensures that the centre is held fully to account. For example, link governors on their outreach work and healthy eating focused visits have asked probing questions. As a result, they have provided recommendations to help the centre to move forward. Governors have dedicated time prior to meetings to read the quarterly progress reports. They use this time effectively to formulate questions and to challenge the centre to continually improve.
- The local authority provides the centre with a good range of useful information. This is used to help the centre reflect on its performance and to set challenging, measurable targets for improvements. The local authority has monitored the centre carefully with regard to registration and engagement of families, particularly those whom the centre has identified as needing the most support. This aspect

of the centre's performance has been very successful in reducing inequalities to access.

- The spacious outdoor area, which is very well resourced, provides a rich learning environment for children. All resources, including staffing and outreach venues, are used efficiently and effectively to meet priority needs, including for children with special educational needs, in particular speech and language difficulties.
- Safeguarding arrangements are robust, and use of the Common Assessment Framework is well established. A wide range of policies and procedures underpin the centre's good work. Children subject to a child protection plan and those identified in need of early help are very well supported, in particular through the targeted involvement of social services and other agencies. As a consequence, more families are moving out of the high-risk category.
- Good case file recording captures well the progress that families make in times of crisis. However, checks on those families accessing services at other centres that are part of the cluster are not rigorous enough. As a result, the centre does not always know just how much difference their work is making to improving families' life chances.
- Parents feel fully involved in not only informing decisions about the services and activities that the centre offers, but also in evaluating their effectiveness. 'Stay and Play' sessions are held on every day of the working week as a response to collective parental feedback. The involvement of parents on the school governing body ensures that parents' views are shared at a governance level in shaping the strategic direction of the centre.

What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Practice consistently reflects the highest aspirations for children and their families and, as a result, inequalities are reducing rapidly and gaps are closing.
Grade 2	Good	Practice enables most children and their families to access good quality services that improve children's well-being and achieve the stated outcomes for families.
Grade 3	Requires improvement	Performance is not as good as it might reasonably be expected to be in one or more key areas.
Grade 4	Inadequate	The needs of children and families in its area are not being met and/or the leaders and managers are not providing sufficient challenge to bring about improvement to the quality of services.

Children's centre

Unique reference number	23487
Local authority	Hackney
Inspection number	455088
Managed by	Wentworth Nursery School on behalf of the local authority

Approximate number of children under five in the reach area	825
Centre leader	Katrin Karlsdottir
Date of previous inspection	Not previously inspected
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