Little Sponges Montessori

38a Hyde Vale, LONDON, SE10 8QH

Inspection date	24 April 2015
Previous inspection date	18 January 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	**This inspection:**	**Outstanding**	**1**
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting **meets legal requirements for early years settings**			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is exemplary. Staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn and develop. Therefore, they provide exciting learning opportunities to challenge and extend children's learning. Consequently, all children make remarkable progress.
- Staff make very effective use of the required progress checks for children aged two years to identify concerns in their development. Furthermore, they work in strong partnership with parents and outside agencies in supporting children with additional needs. This helps to reduce gaps in children's learning.
- Children form strong emotional bonds with the staff. Many children have formed special friendships with their peers. This effectively promotes their emotional well-being.
- Staff welcome parents and children from all communities. Children learn about other cultures and traditions through celebrations and through art and craft activities. Therefore, they are developing their understanding of the world and learn to value differences.
- The Head and staff have a strong understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They reflect this knowledge in continually evaluating performance and driving improvement, to provide high standards in children's care and learning.
- Staff have established excellent links with local schools and effectively share information with school staff when children move to school. This ensures continuity in children's education.
- Staff recruitment and vetting procedures are highly robust. This ensures that all staff are suitable to work with children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance resources further to extend children's understanding of technology.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and outside.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, parents and staff.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documents including suitability checks for staff.
- The inspector held a meeting 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 outstanding

Staff have an excellent understanding of the unique needs of each child. Consequently, they plan extremely well for individual children's learning and all children make rapid progress given their starting points. Children arrive happily and are very eager to watch the 'living eggs'. They curiously ask the staff if the eggs have hatched. They enjoy an exciting group time, as staff provide them the opportunity to hold the chicks in their hands. Children comment that the chicks cuddle under the light to keep themselves warm. This develops children's understanding of the world, and they learn about living things and how they grow. Children wheel a mobile shop around the classroom and pretend to sell fruits. This develops their imagination and supports their communication and language development. They use wooden play money to give change to their customers. This promotes their mathematical development and prepares them for next stages in their learning. However, staff miss some opportunities to extend children's learning further, for example, by providing them resources to explore the use of technology.

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

Staff are excellent role models. Children follow their example and learn to care for each other and their environment. This promotes their personal, social and emotional development. Staff support children's independence extremely well. For example, children help to cut fruits in preparation for snack time. They independently serve themselves snack and water and tidy up when they finish snack. Furthermore, children learn to make healthy choices, as staff work in close partnership with parents to ensure children have nutritious meals. This effectively promotes children's health and well-being.

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

Leadership and management is exemplary. The manager is highly reflective of the quality of care provided to children and continually strives to raise the quality of the provision. Staff and parents are fully involved in evaluating the setting and identifying areas that need improvement. Consequently, plans for improvement are highly effective and successful. Supervision arrangements are excellent. As a result, staff performance is of a very high standard and is continually improving through training and mutual support. The manager has established strong links with the local authority, especially in matters relating to safeguarding children. Consequently, she has developed robust safeguarding policies and procedures. Staff have a very thorough understanding of procedures to follow to protect children's well-being. Therefore, children thrive in a safe and happy environment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY413470
Local authority	Greenwich
Inspection number	832087
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	13
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Nicole Ann Bacon
Date of previous inspection	18 January 2011
Telephone number	02084699337

Little Sponges Montessori Nursery registered in 2010. It is located in the London Borough of Greenwich. The nursery operates two sessions, on all weekdays, between the hours of 9.30am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 3pm respectively, during term-time only. The setting employs three staff; all of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 4. The nursery uses the Montessori method of teaching.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015