

Snowberry Nursery

1 Snowberry Close, London, E15 2AH



Inspection date

15 May 2015

Previous inspection date

19 June 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 manage children's behaviour well by teaching them about the importance of sharing and respecting each other.
- Staff develop children's knowledge about staying safe in the nursery through regular routine activities, such as cleaning up spilt sand and good hand-washing practices.
- The nursery is well led and managed. The provider evaluates staff training needs to further extend their skills and knowledge, and implements effective improvements to bring about positive changes for all children.
- Children are confident to explore their environment and play with each other; therefore, children make good progress in their personal, social and emotional skills.
- Staff have good knowledge of safeguarding procedures as they are able to describe signs that would give them cause for concern, and know how to refer these on.
- Staff provide plentiful opportunities for physical play by ensuring children have continuous access to the outside area.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff provide children with good opportunities to be creative, they do not always ensure that children freely access all tools and materials, to fully develop their imaginations and sensory learning experiences further, in particular for younger children.
- At times, some staff do not fully encourage children to develop their personal independence, particularly at mealtimes, to promote their self-help skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve opportunities for children to access a suitable range of resources to extend their creativity and imaginations, and for younger children to develop further their sensory learning experiences
- extend opportunities for children to develop their personal independence skills throughout the day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children's interactions during play activities, inside and outside.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents to seek their views about the nursery.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff and children.
- The inspector sampled several policies, and also some of the children's learning journals.

Inspector

Natasha Blackwell

Inspection findings

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

Staff are secure in their knowledge of how to promote the learning and development of each child. They ensure the environment is set up to enable children to make choices about their play. This supports children to gain skills in their independence as they choose interesting activities and resources. Children enjoy art activities and are enthusiastic to create their own pictures, therefore developing their own imaginations with their work. Children are very confident exploring their environment and playing with each other, resulting in children progressing in their personal, social and emotional skills. For example, children play well together when sharing the garden area, which allows them to socialise in mixed aged groups. Staff promote children's sense of belonging by welcoming parents into the setting to lead activities. For example, parents come in and do cooking activities and play the drums.

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

The nursery staff are very welcoming and ensure that the environment is attractively set up to encourage children's interest in play. Children play in a safe environment as the staff carry out daily checks to ensure the nursery is secure. Staff promote children's growing awareness of healthy lifestyles well. Overall, staff encourage children's independence skills, which helps them to gain the necessary skills for the next stage of their learning and for school. Staff provide children with activities to explore nature, for example, sticking with leaves and exploring mud, which further strengthens their understanding of the world. Staff have a good understanding of supporting children's individual needs and are observant to build up relationships with them to promote their emotional security.

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

The manager carries out regular staff supervision to ensure staff are well supported in their roles. Staff meetings and team training days are held regularly, where input from staff is welcomed. The manager highly encourages staff training opportunities to support their ongoing professional development. For example, staff have attended training on supporting children's emotional attachments, which has led staff to review the key-person system and make improvements. Staff know and understand their responsibilities for safeguarding children and the procedures to follow for reporting any concerns. Staff welcome parents into the nursery and encourage them to share information about their children. They have good links with other external professionals and local schools. This supports children when they move up to school. The manager implements effective systems to monitor and evaluate the quality of the setting and encourages parents' input in this process. This demonstrates the continuous drive for improvement in order to achieve better outcomes for all children and their families.

Setting details

Unique reference number	155051
Local authority	Waltham Forest
Inspection number	841959
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	57
Number of children on roll	72
Name of provider	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Date of previous inspection	19 June 2012
Telephone number	020 8534 3683

Snowberry Children's Centre registered in 1992 and is situated in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. The setting is open from 8am to 6pm, every weekday, for 48 weeks of the year. The provider employs 16 staff to work directly with the children. Of these, one holds Early Years Teacher Status and another holds a foundation degree in early years. Additionally, 13 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or 3, and one member of staff is unqualified but is working towards her level 2. The provider also employs three additional staff for cooking duties.

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