

Active Learning Kingston Nursery

Victoria Hall, Victoria Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 3DW



Inspection date

27 May 2015

Previous inspection date

9 March 2011

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 receive good levels of support. The manager supervises staff regularly and carries out appraisals to offer support and training to meet their needs. For instance, staff attended a course on behaviour management, which led to staff using positive language to manage children's behaviour more effectively.
- Monitoring of the nursery is effective. The manager uses closed-circuit television in all group rooms along with regular observations to provide feedback to enhance staff practice. The management team checks planning and assessment files regularly so that any inconsistencies can be addressed.
- Staff have secure knowledge of how children learn and use this well to plan a wide range of stimulating activities. They base planning on all areas of learning and link it to observations of children so that they meet their next steps for learning and needs well.
- Staff promote children's early literacy skills effectively. Staff read different types of books to children in lively tones, which leads to children being very engaged in stories.
- Staffing arrangements are effective because they help to ensure continuity of care for each child.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the nursery has a range of technology resources, these are not always readily available to older children to support their learning.
- Some displays, particularly family photos, are not displayed in ways for babies to see independently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further availability of technology resources to pre-school aged children
- review displays in the baby room to ensure that they are in babies' line of vision.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager of an adult-led group activity.
- The inspector observed interaction between staff and children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents and held a discussion with management.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children, and took their views into consideration.

Inspector

Jennifer Beckles

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff teach children about basic scientific concepts, such as floating and sinking as they watch raisins float and sink in carbonated water bottles. Staff teach children to recognise numbers on cards and extend their learning by asking children to say the number that comes before and after a given number. This supports their early mathematics skills well. Babies explore a wide range of different materials, such as shredded paper, paint and cooked spaghetti, and staff teach them words to describe the textures. This promotes their language and creative skills. Older children practise draping and wrapping skills as they use different materials to place around sticks to make creative models. Staff teach children to take turns to speak and listen during group discussion times, which supports their personal and social development. Children develop good skills for later use in school.

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

Children settle well in the nursery because staff take time to find out about children's personalities and interests and use this information to provide activities that children enjoy. They build warm relationships with children, which helps them to feel secure, confident and motivated to learn. Staff teach children to carry out good hygiene routines independently. Children behave in safe ways. Staff show children how to use the stairs safely and carry out regular fire drills so that children know how to respond in an emergency. Staff teach children healthy routines, such as daily opportunities to climb, balance and move in different ways in the well-equipped, spacious outdoor area. They encourage children to be independent and children serve themselves at meal and snack times and pour their own drinks. They support good eating habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks which cater for special dietary needs.

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

The management team has secure knowledge and understanding of regulatory requirements and prioritises children's safety. The building is secure and electronic intercom entry helps to prevent intruder access. All staff receive safeguarding training and know the procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare. The manager vets staff thoroughly to assess suitability for their roles, which helps to keep children safe. Staff carry out comprehensive risk assessments, which promotes children's safety further. Staff work well with local schools, parents and community health professionals to support children's learning. Parents visit the nursery to help with activities. The manager evaluates the nursery and has identified key goals for improvement, such as to continue to develop links with schools to support pre-school aged children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY373981
Local authority	Kingston upon Thames
Inspection number	838134
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	98
Number of children on roll	105
Name of provider	Active Learning Childcare (Guernsey) Ltd
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2011
Telephone number	0203 031 4700

Active Learning Kingston Nursery was registered in 2008. It operates from a two-storey purpose-built building in Kingston in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. There is a disabled lift to access the first floor. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year, with one week's closure at Christmas. There are 24 members of staff employed at the nursery. Of these, 15 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, including two staff who hold Early Years Professional Status and the manager who holds a degree in early years. The nursery receives funding for free early years education places for children aged three and four years.

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