

Gateway House Nursery School



St. Jude's Church Hall, Heslop Road, Balham, London, SW12 8EG

Inspection date 12 June 2015
Previous inspection date 16 January 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

- The manager has good understanding of her role in relation to regulatory requirements. To help ensure children's safety, the manager has implemented a variety of policies and procedures. For instance, staff have a secure knowledge of procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare.
- Staffing arrangements are effective in providing children with continuous care to support their well-being.
- Staff offer a wide range of interesting activities linked to children's interests which cover areas of learning well, overall. They assess children regularly and use this information to provide suitably challenging tasks. Consequently, children make good progress.
- The manager reflects on the nursery regularly to determine key goals for improvement. For example, she plans to continue to develop staff observations to promote best learning for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always make the most of opportunities for children to develop their mathematical understanding about shapes and space.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to encourage children's independence, particularly during snack times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen children's mathematical skills by providing more opportunities for them to talk about sizes and shapes
- ensure that staff make the best use of every opportunity to encourage children be independent.

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 in the indoor and outdoor environment.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation and held a discussion with management.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff 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 help children to count and to recognise numbers, to support their early mathematics skills. They encourage children's language skills well. Staff ask questions that encourage children to talk as they play. They promote children's early literacy skills well and provide many opportunities for children to see words written down. Children enjoy browsing through their favourite books and staff provide many play opportunities for them to see reading as useful and fun. Children develop confidence because staff provide activities and resources that engage children's interests and encourage them to sustain concentration. As a result, children listen attentively, work cooperatively and follow instructions well, which are good skills for later use in school.

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

Staff build warm, nurturing relationships with children which promote their confidence and support their security. They find out about and cater for children's likes and dislikes which help children to feel self-motivated to learn. Staff teach children good hygiene routines and children understand the need to wash away bacteria. They have a good awareness of how to behave in safe ways. For instance, they walk indoors and tidy away floor toys when not in use, to avoid accidents. Staff ensure that children eat suitable food by catering for special dietary needs. They provide nutritious fruit snacks and fresh drinking water for children, to support healthy eating habits.

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

The manager carries out background checks on staff as part of the recruitment process, which supports children's safety. Staff receive good levels of support, including regular supervision and appraisals to identify their training needs. For instance, staff attended a course on supporting children learning English as an additional language which led to more targeted resources to support their development. The manager monitors the nursery effectively. She observes staff regularly to provide feedback to improve practice and checks planning and assessments regularly, to address any areas of concern. Staff work well with parents, local schools and the local authority to support children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123110
Local authority	Wandsworth
Inspection number	836132
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	Elizabeth Marshall
Date of previous inspection	16 January 2012
Telephone number	020-8675-8258

Gateway House Nursery School opened in 1990. It operates from a church hall in Balham in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The nursery is open each weekday from 8.45am until 12.15pm during term time only. Older children bring a packed lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays and attend until 2.30pm, to help them to prepare for their move to primary school. The nursery receives funding for free early years education places for children aged three and four years old. There are seven staff, including the manager, six of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds Qualified Teacher Status.

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