

# Caterpillars Day Nursery

The Square, Carshalton, SM5 3BN



## Inspection date

12 June 2015

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Requires improvement</b>	<b>3</b>
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting <b>does not meet legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Recent staff changes mean that staff deployment in the baby room is inconsistent. These changes of staff mean babies take longer to settle and their emotional well-being is not fully supported.
- Staff do not always use their qualifications well to plan for children's future learning based on what children can already do. This means children do not always have challenging experiences that help them make good progress. This is particularly so for children's early mathematical development.
- Evaluation methods do not focus sufficiently on improving the quality of staff teaching.

### It has the following strengths

- Staff are very welcoming towards parents and keep them informed of their children's daily care and the activities they undertake.
- The children's play environment is well organised with a wide range of interesting toys and resources, both inside and outside, that is accessible to children.
- Daily risk assessments eliminate hazards and include secure entry systems that help ensure children are kept safe.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

### To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve consistency of staff deployment in the baby room
- check that assessments consistently identify the most relevant things that children need to learn next. Make sure that staff use these to provide children with challenging experiences, particularly in regard to mathematics.

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

- keep a careful check on whether teaching helps children make good progress.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities in the baby room, toddler room, pre-school room and in the outside learning environment.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager, held discussions and spoke to members of staff.
- The inspector looked at the children's assessment records and at planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of some parents and carers.
- This inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process.

## Inspector

Gill Cubitt

## Inspection findings

### **How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement**

Teaching quality varies. Staff do not consistently plan challenging adult-led activities, particularly for children's mathematical development. Although planning covers all areas of learning, staff do not always link it to the observations of children's progress made previously, so learning builds on what has gone before. This hinders children's progress. Nevertheless, staff promote children's learning and development adequately. They take pleasure in joining in with the children's play, and support their communication and language development by providing some interesting activities. For example, older children learn about police officers. Staff help younger children gain coordination, such as by learning actions to songs. Babies are motivated to crawl, such as when they see attractive resources and want to touch them.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement**

Babies' emotional well-being is not fully nurtured due to recent changes in staff. Staff endeavour to follow routines supplied by parents but the staff changes are unsettling for the youngest children. Older children are confident and behave well. Staff guide toddlers to share and take turns. Staff give praise, which encourages children's good behaviour. Children learn about healthy eating and taking care of themselves. Older children see to their personal needs, which helps prepare them well for school. Children learn about safety; for example, staff discuss road safety with older children on a walk to school. Staff develop partnerships with teachers, which further aid children's transfer to school. Staff provide secure, risk-assessed play areas and keep children safe. Regular exercise outside and rest times help maintain children's good health.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement**

This inspection was prioritised following receipt of information that raised concerns about care practices. This inspection found that the manager understands the welfare and learning requirements. Staff supervise children and meet staff-to-child ratios and children's needs. However, changes in staffing have had an impact on the full implementation of these with regard to staff deployment and, therefore, children's well-being. The manager is recruiting new staff to address these issues. Robust vetting and performance management methods check staff are suitable to work with children. Through training, staff know how to protect children. The manager and her deputy work together well and prepare plans to improve the nursery. However, the manager's evaluation of the nursery is not robust; weaknesses in teaching are missed. This slows children's progress. Parents are kept informed of staff changes. The manager welcomes parents' views and works with them to resolve concerns.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY474449
<b>Local authority</b>	Sutton
<b>Inspection number</b>	1016516
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	60
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	58
<b>Name of provider</b>	Caterpillars Day Nursery Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable
<b>Telephone number</b>	02087733882

Caterpillars Day Nursery registered in 2014. The nursery employs 11 members of staff, including the manager. There are 10 staff who hold relevant childcare qualifications. The nursery is situated in Carshalton in the London Borough of Sutton. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm, all year round, and offers a variety of sessions. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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