

The Children's Garden

Grove Gardens Chapel, Lower Grove Road, RICHMOND, Surrey, TW10 6HP



Inspection date

13 May 2015

Previous inspection date

20 May 2009

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 a good knowledge of the regulatory requirements, which are implemented well. Staff are vetted well for their roles, which helps to keep children safe. They have secure knowledge of the procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare, which helps to keep children protected from harm.
- Staff work well with local schools and parents to support children's learning. For instance, they keep parents informed of children's progress and invite local teachers into the nursery to get to know pre-school aged children.
- Staff teach children good dietary habits. They grow fruit and vegetables with the children, which they use together to prepare meals such as vegetable soup. Staff cater for special dietary needs which ensures that children eat suitable food.
- Staff organise a broad variety of stimulating activities and provide many flexible resources to enable children to create their own play. Staff assess children regularly and determine their next steps for learning. They use this information to provide suitably challenging tasks for children.
- The manager has clear goals for improvement of the nursery because she reflects on practice regularly. For example, she plans to continue to enhance the outdoor area to support children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not maximise opportunities for children to be independent at snack time during trips to the woods.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further opportunities for children to be independent at snack times during trips to the woods.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interaction between staff and children in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation and held a discussion with the manager.
- 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

Children spend a large proportion of their time outdoors and the quality of teaching is good. Staff help to develop children's imaginations by taking them to the nearby woods. Children use their design skills as they create a pretend barbecue by using stones and logs. They practise early mathematics skills by sorting leaves and sticks into piles. Staff teach children how to make patterns with different coloured leaves, which also supports their early mathematics skills. Children work together cooperatively and successfully while they create imaginary stories, and this promotes their social development. Staff teach children to recognise their names on napkin holders at snack and mealtimes, which supports their early literacy skills further. They teach children to take turns to speak and listen during group discussion times. Staff teach children to use simple technology by using a hand mill to grind wheat into flour. They provide children with a wide range of books, tell stories in lively tones, and put on puppet shows to promote children's early literacy skills well. Children learn valuable skills for later use in school.

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

Staff build strong, warm relationships with children which help them to feel secure and to settle well into the nursery. Staff encourage children to be self-motivated and confident by enabling them to access the full range of resources to use anywhere they wish. Staff teach children hygienic care routines and children demonstrate good knowledge of how to keep safe. For example, children know that sun cream and hats 'protect you from the sun rays.' Staff encourage children to assess some risks for themselves, such as how high they climb along a tree branch. Overall, children display good independent skills. They put on outer clothing and shoes when preparing for trips and help to tidy away resources at the end of the session. Staff ensure that children get daily fresh air and opportunities to climb, balance and move in different ways using the natural resources of the wood and other outdoor areas. This supports children's physical development well.

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

The manager monitors the nursery effectively. She works in the group room with staff, and so observes staff practice directly, providing feedback to improve practice, where needed. The manager checks planning and assessment regularly so that any inconsistencies can be addressed. The manager carries out regular supervision to address any areas of need by offering training and support to staff. For instance, staff attended a course on outdoor learning which led to more use of natural resources in outdoor play to promote children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY380063
Local authority	Richmond upon Thames
Inspection number	829650
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	3 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	The Children's Garden
Date of previous inspection	20 May 2009
Telephone number	02089482959

The Children's Garden opened in 2008. The setting is certified by the Steiner Association and follows the Steiner Waldorf philosophy of education. It is committee run and operates from a former chapel in Richmond, in the London Borough of Richmond-Upon-Thames. The sessions run each weekday, from 9.30am to 1.30pm, during term time only. The nursery employs three members of staff, including the manager. All hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds a qualification at level 5, one staff member holds a qualification at level 3, and one staff member holds a qualification at level 2. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for children aged three and four years.

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