

Essex Road Pre-School

Sir Walter, Canonbury Crescent, Islington, London, N1 2FE



Inspection date

14 July 2015

Previous inspection date

16 February 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 have good teaching skills and a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They enthusiastically engage children in purposeful play. Consequently, children make good progress in their all-round learning.
- Staff provide a welcoming environment both indoors and outdoors. Children can choose from a range of interesting activities and resources that support their learning and development.
- Staff are caring and know children and their families well. Children show they feel safe and secure and ready to learn.
- Staff have a good understanding of how to effectively safeguard children through their knowledge of child protection issues.
- Staff have developed strong partnerships with parents. Information is shared effectively to help support children's individual learning at home and in the pre-school.
- Staff support children with additional needs very well. They receive the care and attention they need, including support from external agencies, to ensure they make good progress relative to their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, children who are engaged in meaningful play are interrupted which means their learning is not further extended.
- Children are not always effectively reminded to wash their hands after going to the toilet, as part of good hygiene practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review daily routines in order to minimise the interruption of children's learning
- monitor the effectiveness of hygiene measures and help children to learn the importance of good hygiene.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the pre-school as well as in the outside space.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection, and held a meeting with the deputy manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a sample of children's records, planning documents, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Vanessa Linehan

Inspection findings

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

Staff promote children's learning and development well across all areas of learning. Staff gather information about each child from parents when they start at the pre-school and use it to help children to settle. They observe and assess children's abilities and interests and provide them with interesting resources and activities to meet their individual needs. Children make good progress and they are eager and motivated to learn. Occasionally however, staff interrupt children when they are engaged in a meaningful learning activity. This means that their learning is not always fully promoted. All children receive good support to develop their language and thinking skills. Staff skilfully ask questions and encourage children to talk and share their ideas. Staff encourage children who are learning English as an additional language to use their home language in the pre-school. Children have plenty of opportunities to build on their English language skills.

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

Children's behaviour is good because staff are clear about their expectations and help them to learn to share and play together cooperatively. Staff talk to older children about what to expect when they start school and children excitedly discuss their forthcoming graduation ceremony. Children receive reassurance to help prepare them for the forthcoming change in their lives. Children learn about the risk of talking to strangers, and how to use equipment safely. Children are encouraged to be independent and develop self-care skills. Staff provide suitable resources to enable children to do more for themselves. For example, small jugs make it easier for children to pour their own drinks at snack time. Staff remind children to wash their hands before meals but they are not always reminded to do so after they have been to the toilet. This means they are not consistently learning good hygiene practices. Children enjoy healthy snacks and staff give them lots of opportunities to play outside and engage in physical activity in the fresh air.

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

The management team ensures that staff are deployed well to enable them to effectively supervise children. They implement suitable safety measures to help keep children safe. Staff benefit from regular supervisions and reviews of their performance. This provides them with opportunities to discuss their teaching and identify training to further develop their skills. Management involves staff, local authority representatives and parents in reflecting on practice and children's progress. Areas for improvement have been identified, such as providing staff with additional training to enhance their support of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. There is an evident drive to make continuous improvements to benefit children. Parents speak highly of the staff and feel supported by them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY414760
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	832194
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	31
Name of provider	Essex Road Pre-School
Date of previous inspection	16 February 2011
Telephone number	02073543944

Essex Road Pre-School registered in 2011. It is based in the London Borough of Islington. The pre-school is open between 9am and 3pm during term time. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The pre-school employs five members of staff, all of whom hold suitable childcare qualifications.

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