

Dawmouse Montessori Nursery School

34 Haldane Road, Fulham, London, SW6 7EU



Inspection date

25 September 2015

Previous inspection date

27 February 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager is committed to the support and development of staff and provides regular supervision and training opportunities. For example, staff attended a course on planning which led to them implementing better ways to meet children's needs.
- Staff teach children to behave in safe ways. For example, they show children how to use scissors safely during craft activities and talk to children about why it is important to walk indoors.
- Staff plan a wide range of suitably challenging activities based on regular assessments. They track children's progress to ensure that appropriate support is put in place for any children who operate below expected levels. This helps to ensure that each child's needs are met well.
- The manager monitors planning and assessment records regularly to identify and correct any inconsistencies. This helps to support children's learning needs effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide enough opportunities for children to learn about and use technology as they play.
- Although staff provide some resources for children to practise their early writing skills, staff do not always make the most of opportunities for children to write in play situations.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more ways for children to learn about and use technology as they extend their understanding of the world
- provide further opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills in play situations.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- 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 documentation and held a discussion with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents and children and considered their views.

Inspector

Jennifer Beckles

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has secure understanding of the requirements of her role in relation to regulatory requirements. She evaluates all aspects of the nursery to form clear goals for improvement. For instance, she plans to continue to develop the outdoor area to promote best learning for children. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have clear understanding of procedures to follow in relation to any concern over a child's welfare. This helps to protect children from harm effectively. The manager carries out thorough background checks on staff to assess their suitability. This helps to keep children safe. Staff work well with others to support children's learning. They have effective partnerships with parents and keep them informed of children's development. Staff also work well with local schools to provide effective support for children as they move on in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Children learn mathematical vocabulary. For example, when comparing lengths of towers children make, staff use words such as 'shorter' and 'longer'. Staff teach children about the world as they help them complete date and weather charts. Children practise their small muscle skills as they cut, knead and roll dough. Staff encourage children to practise throwing and catching, balancing on stilts and to move confidently in different ways in the spacious outdoor area. All these activities support children's physical development well. Staff support children's early literacy skills as they encourage children to recognise their names and read to them in lively tones. Children learn to take turns, such as by speaking and listening during group discussions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle well in this warm, nurturing nursery. Staff promote children's confidence, getting to know and value each child individually. Staff encourage children to behave in positive ways, praising children for their efforts. Children are motivated to learn as staff use their interests to engage them well in tasks. Children learn to value and respect others. For example, staff discuss and celebrate special cultural events with children which supports their personal development. Children are independent and develop good personal care skills. For instance, they help set up lunch tables and wash their hands before eating.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. Their understanding of mathematical concepts is developing well, alongside their growing understanding of sounds and letters. As a result, children are learning important skills in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	143750
Local authority	Hammersmith & Fulham
Inspection number	846609
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	32
Name of provider	Dawmouse Montessori Nursery School Limited
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2012
Telephone number	020 7381 9385

Dawmouse Montessori Nursery School opened in 1985 and is located in Fulham, in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm for variable sessions, during term time only. The nursery receives funding for free early education for children aged three and four years. There are eight staff, seven of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery combines the Montessori educational approach with the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

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