

Toad Hall Nursery School

37 St. Marys Gardens, Kennington, London, SE11 4UF



Inspection date

26 January 2016

Previous inspection date

13 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The well-qualified and highly ambitious team provides children with an exceptional range of equipment and materials, inside and outside. Children are highly motivated, and eager to learn and explore the environment.
- Children's concentration and attention skills are excellent. They listen intently and are highly responsive to adults and one another.
- Staff use their expert knowledge relating to the areas of learning to offer rich, varied and imaginative experiences to engage and motivate children to learn.
- Children benefit from exceptional relationships with staff. They are emotionally secure and develop strong bonds with their peers.
- Staff promote children's independence skills extremely well. Children confidently make their own decisions and lead their own play.
- Staff place a sharp focus on monitoring children's learning. They use rigorous observation systems, particularly to swiftly identify and support children with special educational needs. All children make exceptional progress from their starting points.
- Staff plan purposeful experiences to develop children's awareness of the wider world and to teach them about cultural differences.
- The manager actively seeks to develop the provision. She implements successful self-evaluation processes and gathers the views of parents to drive forward improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to use all opportunities to enhance the already high quality of interaction with children, particularly during daily routines, to advance their social skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views of the setting.
- The inspector spoke to staff to gain their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding.
- The inspector viewed relevant documentation, including staff suitability checks and training certificates.
- The inspector observed children in all areas, including the four playrooms and in the garden.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Christine Lamey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff understand their responsibility to protect children from harm, including the procedures for reporting any child protection issues. The manager follows robust procedures for recruitment and induction to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. She extensively monitors staff performance and provides ongoing support for their professional development, including identifying any training needs. The manager places great importance on supporting staff to share their knowledge with others. For example, senior staff have recently carried out training to support all staff on how to communicate further with children by using signing. The manager carries out detailed risk assessments to ensure the setting is safe for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have a secure understanding of child development. They work closely with parents to find out about children's interests and abilities. Children flourish in this bright and well-resourced setting, which offers suitable challenges for the ages of the children who attend. For example, children aged two years confidently join in with circle time activities, showing a high level of concentration and language skills. Children are confident talkers; for example, they use an increasing range of vocabulary with adults and peers. Staff skilfully develop children's early writing skills, such as through engaging in activities where children learn to write their own name. Staff utilise excellent resources to develop children's awareness of mathematics and technology. For instance, children learn to count in units, tens and hundreds while using special beads and frames.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff excellently foster children's personal and emotional development, enabling them to develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem. However, some opportunities for children to enhance their social interaction further, for example during mealtimes, are still developing. Children demonstrate exemplary behaviour, such as when waiting for their turn or sharing with their peers. Children's safety is of the highest importance. For example, staff encourage children to become independent and manage their own risks, such as when using the stairs. Children have access to a safe and stimulating garden where they enjoy the fresh air and develop their physical skills, such as running, jumping and climbing. Staff promote healthy eating effectively. For example, they work with parents to promote good choices, such as to provide fruit and healthy snacks in the children's lunch boxes.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make high rates of progress from their starting points. They are gaining the necessary skills to help them prepare for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	144720
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	836701
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 7
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	Vivien Rees
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2011
Telephone number	020 7735 5087

Toad Hall Nursery School registered in 1985. It is situated in the London Borough of Lambeth. The nursery is open each weekday from 8.30am to 4.15pm, for 38 weeks of the year. The provider receives funding to offer free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs four members of staff, one of whom holds Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery adopts the Montessori approach to teaching and learning.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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