

Little Learners In the Park

Durnsford Recreation Ground, Wellington Road, London, SW19 8EY



Inspection date

9 March 2016

Previous inspection date

26 July 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 partnership with parents is very good. Staff use effective ways to involve parents in all aspects of their children's learning. For example, they discuss children's interests and share their next steps in learning.
- Staff are clear and consistent about how they expect children to behave, and children behave very well. Staff are kind and patient, and children learn how to share and consider each other's needs.
- Managers make good use of self-evaluation and ideas from training to bring about improvements. They actively seek the views of staff, parents and other professionals to review their practices. There is continuous improvement in meeting children's needs.
- The staff know each child well. They observe their key children's development closely, and plan effectively to move them on in their next stage in learning. Children make good progress from their individual starting points.
- Staff are caring and attentive to children's needs. They settle them in well and form strong bonds with them all, children are happy and secure in their care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff follow routines too strictly, interrupting children's natural flow in learning. Children do not always have time to explore and develop at their own pace.
- Occasionally, staff do not give enough time for children to respond to questions they ask them to develop their thinking skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of daily routines, to allow children enough time to play with their chosen activities and fully explore and develop at their own pace
- increase the opportunities for children to think and respond to questions in order to solve problems for themselves.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching practices and the impact this had on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager, staff, children and parents.
- The inspector read some of the setting's documentation, including the safeguarding policy and procedures.
- The inspector sampled children's development information and records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Ben Parsons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has high expectations and shows strong leadership skills. She supports staff's professional development well and effectively identifies relevant training to bring about improvements. For example, after recent training, staff have introduced new ideas to further develop children's interest in stories. The manager and staff monitor and track children's progress closely and any gaps in development are quickly identified and acted on. The staff has good links with local schools and encourages information sharing to support children's move. Safeguarding is effective. All staff attend safeguarding training and have a good understanding of how to respond to any child protection concerns.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy taking part in the well-planned activities. For example, older children use mathematical language very well as they move toys around the setting. Younger children explore farmyard animals and the different noises and sounds they make. Staff use topics, such as Spring, to help children build on their learning. For example, children enjoy discussing what they know with staff as they create tree blossom pictures. They confidently use creative equipment and concentrate well, and pay attention to detail during their art. There are good opportunities for children to develop their technological understanding. For example, they enjoy exploring cameras and watches and investigate what they can do.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The staff provide a welcoming environment where children are happy and at ease. They gather detailed information from parents, which helps children settle quickly into the setting. Children enjoy cuddles with staff and are keen to include them in their play. Children receive warm praise and encouragement throughout their play and take pride in their achievements. Children develop good social skills and work well together, for example, when serving each other in the role-play shop. Children develop a strong sense of independence. For example, they choose when to play in the well-equipped outside play area and are supported to dress themselves. There are fun physical challenges outdoors and children enjoy playing and exercising with balls and climbing equipment.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of their learning. Children's language skills are consistently extended by staff. Children are confident talkers, for example, they join in during story times and happily communicate with friends. They show impressive mathematical skills, such as when they count confidently, recognise shapes and compare sizes during play. Children show good early-writing skills, such as holding a pencil correctly, and confidently gain the skills needed for their next stages in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	138209
Local authority	Merton
Inspection number	825700
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	60
Name of provider	Little Learners Two
Date of previous inspection	26 July 2011
Telephone number	07749 899976

Little Learners registered in 2000. The setting operates at Durnsford Recreation Ground, in the London Borough of Merton. The nursery is open each weekday, between 9am and 3pm, during term time only. The setting employs twelve staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and level 3. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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