

Octagon Nursery School

Octagon Nursery School, St. Saviours Church Hall, Eton Road, LONDON, NW3 4SU



Inspection date

19 April 2016

Previous inspection date

26 September 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The provider does not ensure that recruitment procedures are completely thorough. She has not obtained new Disclosure and Barring Service checks for some members of staff and has relied on checks from their previous employment. This does not have a significant impact on children as staff do not work unsupervised.
- The provider has only recently begun to track groups of children's achievements to clearly evaluate how well they make progress over time.
- The provider does not implement fully effective systems to monitor staff practice and target professional development to help staff improve their skills further.

It has the following strengths

- Partnerships with parents are positive. Staff work closely with them and share information effectively to provide a shared approach to children's care and learning.
- Staff provide a positive role model for children. For example, they are calm, speak politely and use good manners. Children behave well. They develop their confidence well, and have good social, and communication and language skills. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Staff carry out effective risk assessments of the premises to ensure they are safe for children's play and activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

Due Date

- ensure all staff complete Disclosure and Barring Service checks in a suitable time frame. 19/05/2016

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

- develop the tracking of children's progress further to evaluate whether all groups of children make equal progress over time
- strengthen the monitoring of staff practice to precisely identify staff's professional development needs to build on their skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed children's play and activities, and their interactions with staff indoors and outdoors.
- The inspectors completed a joint observation and held a meeting with the provider.
- The inspectors spoke to parents, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspectors looked at paperwork, including children's records and records of staff suitability.
- The inspectors spoke to the provider about how she uses self-evaluation and makes improvements.

Inspector

Sheena Bankier

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The provider and staff understand how to recognise and manage concerns about children's welfare. The provider's recruitment procedures are not fully secure. She has not yet gained new Disclosure and Barring Service checks for some staff. However, she has followed some effective procedures when employing new staff, such as seeking references and checking new staff's identity. Staff work together and are not left unsupervised with children which minimises the possible risks to them. Safeguarding is effective. The quality of the provider's coaching, mentoring and support for staff is variable. She does not always effectively monitor the quality of their practice to precisely target areas for staff to develop their skills and practice. Self-evaluation includes the views of staff, parents and children. The provider acts on advice and support from the local authority advisor to help identify and make steady improvements. Children's individual progress is tracked well to identify their learning needs. However, tracking of groups of children's progress has only just started to effectively evaluate their needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use their observations to plan interesting activities that engage children and build on their skills and knowledge. They motivate children's learning well, such as through supportive interaction. For example, focused group activities help children to learn about numbers and counting when they use dice. Staff support children learning English as an additional language securely. For example, they use picture cards to aid communication and provide individual support to help children develop their use and understanding of English.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The provider has not followed the correct procedures for checking staff suitability in a timely manner, leading to a breach in safeguarding and welfare requirements. Children enjoy playing in the well-resourced outdoor area. For example, children enjoy playing imaginatively together with small logs and transport these around in the wheelbarrow and trailer on the toy digger. Children are beginning to learn about healthy practices. They know they need to wash their hands before helping to prepare the healthy snack and before eating. Children treat each other and adults respectfully and use good manners.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those learning English as an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. They develop skills in readiness to start school. Children concentrate and listen well, and know and follow routines consistently. They develop good independence skills, such as learning to pour their own drinks. Children learn to recognise their names, such as finding their name cards in the morning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY443642
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	1027956
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Janette Margaret Holding
Date of previous inspection	26 September 2012
Telephone number	02075863206

Octagon Nursery School registered in March 2012 and is privately owned. It operates from a church hall in Hampstead in the London Borough of Camden. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to midday during term times, and also operates a lunch club until 2pm for the older children up to three days each week. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. There are a total of eight members of staff, including the provider who is the manager. Of these, the provider and three other staff hold relevant level 3 qualifications, and three other staff hold level 2 qualifications.

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