

Surestart Lime Tree Children's Centre

Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B19 1HJ



Inspection date

4 May 2016

Previous inspection date

9 May 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 quality of teaching and staff's interaction with children are outstanding. Children experience exciting and varied activities that cover all aspects of learning in depth. Children are challenged extremely well in their thinking and they thoroughly enjoy being at the nursery. They are very busy and engaged in the activities which are planned around their individual interests.
- Staff have an excellent knowledge of how children learn through play. They use their observations to plan sharply focused next steps in learning for all children. Assessment is regular and precise and all children make excellent progress from very clear starting points. There is excellent communication and sharing of information with parents about children's needs and progress.
- Children's behaviour is excellent and they are kind to each other. Staff teach children to share and take turns as they play. Children enjoy choosing a range of fresh fruit at snack time. Staff sit with children and teach them the importance of healthy eating and help to develop children's social skills extremely well. Children are reminded to use good manners at all times.
- The monitoring of staff practice and children's progress is extremely well documented and thorough. Information gathered about the progress of specific groups of children informs sharply focused planning so that gaps in children's achievements rapidly close.
- Staff are highly motivated and work very effectively as a team to focus on improvements, so that the very high-quality provision is maintained. Staff work exceptionally well with other professionals to support children and their families and to help them to access the services they may need.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore even more highly successful ways to involve all parents in the support of their children's learning both at home and in the nursery.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and deputy manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Catherine Sharkey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Children are very well supervised and the premises are very secure. The management team ensures that all staff understand and implement meticulous and robust procedures for safeguarding. The enthusiastic managers and staff have a very clear plan of how to improve the high-quality provision even further. The management team and staff work exceptionally well with other local providers and children's centres. This helps them to monitor the provision and to improve staff practice and knowledge. There is excellent communication with the other settings that children attend. Staff's professional development is carefully planned so that all staff increase their teaching knowledge and skills. They share their expertise at regular staff meetings. There are high expectations for the achievements of children and staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff bring out each child's potential and help them to achieve the best they can. They develop children's language and vocabulary through their expert questioning and the challenges they provide. Babies enjoy the feel of dry sand as it trickles through their fingers. Staff continually encourage and stimulate all children so they think about their play and make independent choices. Toddlers busy themselves in the mud kitchen as they all share and cooperate extremely well to cook soil, weeds and grass for dinner. Pre-school children are very imaginative in their retelling of a favourite story. Staff guide the focus of their play as they change parts of the story and act it out using toy animals. Staff have identified a need to involve all parents even more successfully in their children's learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff help children to feel valued and to gain a sense of belonging in the nursery. They include each child's contributions to small group discussions. This helps them to gain confidence and very good self-esteem and to talk about experiences they enjoy with their families. They are also given confidence through frequent praise and encouragement. Excellent links are made by staff between nursery and home. Children bring in photographs of their families and pets. They take home a teddy and parents help children to write what they did with the bear and take pictures of their day. This helps children to settle and feel secure at nursery. Children's health and well-being is given the highest priority. Staff are highly successful in preparing children emotionally and developmentally for their move to school.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children learn early literacy and mathematical skills extremely well. They count with staff during stories and daily routines. Children develop their skills in throwing a bean bag onto a number tile outside to show they recognise the numbers. Children develop their physical skills extremely well through their use of a wide range of climbing and balancing equipment and other resources. Children are acquiring many key skills to help prepare them for their future learning, including school. They are learning to put their coats on, serve their own food and to communicate their needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY338943
Local authority	Birmingham
Inspection number	849257
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	63
Name of provider	Birmingham City Council
Date of previous inspection	9 May 2012
Telephone number	0121 675 2530 or 2536

Surestart Lime Tree Children's Centre was registered in 2007 and is managed by Birmingham City Council. The nursery employs 13 members of childcare staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, 5 or 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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