

Star Child Montessori Day Nursery

Wiltshire Road Hall, Wiltshire Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon, CR7 7QN



Inspection date

24 May 2016

Previous inspection date

10 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- Staff value the strong partnerships with parents. Staff provide several opportunities for parents to participate in their children's learning. For example, they invite parents to accompany children on special visits, such as trips to the farm, and share resources with parents to help enable them to continue children's learning at home.
- Children learn to understand the needs of others. For example, they explain that the book corner is 'like the library' and they use their quiet voice in this area.
- Staff promote opportunities for children to learn about the effect of healthy food on their bodies. For example, children learn to identify foods that would contribute to a 'happy tooth' or a 'sad tooth'.
- Staff work closely with professionals to help plan effectively for children who need extra support. Children who speak English as an additional language receive good support. For example, staff provide resources that help them to build on what they already know. Children make good progress from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff miss opportunities to encourage children further to share their views and ideas, for instance, through effective questioning.
- Staff do not always support children's understanding of routines to help them to anticipate what happens next and prepare themselves to move on to the next activity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen further the existing good teaching practice so all staff fully exploit opportunities to extend children's learning, including through skilful questioning
- support children's understanding of routines to help enable them to anticipate what happens next and prepare themselves to move on to the next activity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and their interactions with children.
- The inspector had discussions with the staff as appropriate.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children.
- The inspector conducted joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documents, including children's learning records.

Inspector

Geetha Ramesh

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders and managers evaluate their practice effectively and develop clear targets for improvement. They have successfully met the actions and recommendations raised in the previous inspection. For example, they have strengthened arrangements to help ensure the security of the premises. They monitor staff performance effectively and staff make good use of their training knowledge and skills to help improve teaching practice. For example, they have strengthened processes for supporting children with speech and language difficulties. The manager tracks the progress made by different groups of children, for instance in their communication and language development, to help assess the effectiveness of the learning programme. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand how to identify and report concerns about children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff stimulate children's enjoyment in learning through a range of interesting activities. For example, children in the pre-school room learn about how things change, for instance, as they experiment crushing and grinding seeds in a mortar. Toddlers learn to care for living things, for example, they feed the fish. These activities help children to build on their understanding of the world. Staff provide opportunities for young children to explore media and materials; for example, they eagerly move their toy cars on a tray of jelly and observe the track marks. This helps prepare them for later artwork.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy regular opportunities to play in fresh air, which helps support their health and well-being. They learn to take appropriate risks. For example, babies and young children learn to crawl through a tunnel and older children explore swinging on tyres. Staff cheer them for their efforts, which helps build on children's confidence in their own abilities. Staff encourage children's independence at mealtimes. For example, children serve themselves their meals and older children learn to make a positive contribution for example, they take the water jug around to top up the cups.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are emotionally settled and they enjoy their learning experiences. Young children learn about cause and effect; for example, they set a toy car off at the top of the play car park and follow it with their eyes as it lands at the bottom. Older children learn to name and sound the letters of the alphabet and use number names in their play. This helps them to build on their early reading and mathematical skills. Children develop key skills that support their future learning and are prepared well for their move to school. They benefit from the effective communication links between the management team and local schools, which helps support their smooth transfer.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY385314
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	1028789
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	108
Number of children on roll	103
Name of registered person	Star Child Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP905511
Date of previous inspection	10 July 2013
Telephone number	02086896532

Star Child Montessori Day Nursery registered in 2004. It is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery also operates holiday provision for school-age children during some school holidays. It supports children with special educational needs or disability and children who are learning English as an additional language. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. It follows the Montessori education philosophy. There are 21 members of staff who work at the nursery, including the manager. Of these, 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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