

Balham Pre-school & Day Nursery

36 Radbourne Road, Balham, London, SW12 0EF



Inspection date	8 July 2016
Previous inspection date	6 June 2013

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children's physical development is excellent. They have extensive opportunities to use the large outdoor play area and enjoy taking age-appropriate risks in their physical play.
- Children enjoy their time in the highly stimulating learning environment. They are very happy, settled and content. They make good progress from their starting points.
- The management team effectively and precisely evaluates the quality of the nursery and plans for continuous improvements. For example, with staff involvement, it has made several changes since the last inspection to improve older children's early writing and mathematical skills.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. Staff fully support parents to be involved in their children's care and learning. This effective and shared approach helps all children to make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Staff encourage children's communication and language development very well. For example, they consistently give clear instructions and skilfully ask children questions that help them to think and speak.
- The management team monitors staff practice effectively. Staff benefit from good training opportunities and are encouraged to continuously reflect on their practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Babies at times sit for too long waiting to eat snacks, and staff do not always use this opportunity to engage them in any meaningful learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the snack time routine in the baby room so that younger children do not have to wait too long and that they are engaged in purposeful learning at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed all play areas and staff interactions with children.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including children's assessment records, attendance records, staff suitability and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff at appropriate times throughout the day and held meetings with the management team.
- The inspector spoke with parents and children, and took their views into account.

Inspector

Josephine Afful

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The management team monitors the development of all children efficiently to identify any gaps in their learning. For example, recent tracking on the progress of different groups of children highlighted that boys were not achieving as high percentages in mathematics as girls. The team organised a workshop to heighten staff's knowledge and boys are now making secure achievements in this area of learning. Safeguarding is effective. Comprehensive policies and procedures help the management team and staff safeguard children's welfare. The management team and staff have a clear understanding of the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about children's safety or welfare. They carry out thorough risk assessments to help children play safely. There are clear procedures to ensure the suitability of staff to work with children. The manager ensures that they meet child-to-staff ratios and supervise children well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The enthusiastic staff provide a good range of resources and activities to help children achieve. They carry out regular assessments to check children's progress and plan for their next stage of learning. Staff support babies well to explore; for example, babies eagerly used their hands and feet to explore sand. The older children very competently climb and use equipment confidently. Children of all ages develop a great love of books and staff read regularly to them. For example, toddlers independently choose books to look at and show good concentration when listening to stories.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Settling-in procedures are thorough and very effective. Staff build extremely trusting relationships with the children. Staff give extremely clear rules and have very high expectations for behaviour. Children are very considerate of others and securely learn how to behave. For example, when older children want to contribute in group discussions, they put their hands up, not talking over others. Staff provide an extremely welcoming environment where children learn to respect others. Resources and activities superbly reflect the diversity of children's backgrounds and experiences. Staff encourage children's independence extremely well. For example, toddlers serve themselves at mealtimes and practise eating with forks and knives.

Outcomes for children are good

Children behave exceptionally well. They are very friendly, sociable and confident communicators. Children are active and curious learners. For example, babies look intently at the movements of water. Toddlers observe snails' eggs hatch and pre-school children investigate the development of guinea pigs. Children develop good skills for their next stage of learning, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY286661
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	1055454
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	0 - 5
Total number of places	65
Number of children on roll	78
Name of registered person	Asquith Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900811
Date of previous inspection	6 June 2013
Telephone number	020 8673 1405

Balham Pre-school & Day Nursery registered in 2004. The nursery is situated in Balham in the London Borough of Lambeth. The nursery opens each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks per year. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 25 staff who work directly with the children; of these, 19 hold appropriate childcare qualifications, including two staff members who hold early years teacher status.

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