

Balfour Nursery

7 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 4HP



Inspection date	28 November 2016
Previous inspection date	21 November 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Babies and children settle well into the nursery and form strong attachments to staff. Staff are warm, affectionate and attentive to children's needs. Children behave well.
- Babies and children learn to be independent from a young age and are eager to do things for themselves. Effective procedures help children to move and progress smoothly through different parts of the nursery. All children feel safe, secure and confident.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Staff involve parents in their children's learning from entry to the setting and throughout their time at the nursery. Staff encourage parents to continue children's learning at home. They provide opportunities for parents to contribute to children's learning within the nursery.
- Staff use their qualifications and skills gained through training well to provide effective activities that support children's learning. Staff evaluate the activities they provide and reflect on their practice to ensure they typically meet the needs of each individual child.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not extend children's activities and challenge them in their learning sufficiently to ensure they achieve even better.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use opportunities more effectively to challenge children's learning to ensure they make even better progress in all areas of their development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider, and spoke to staff and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation such as self-evaluation, suitability and qualifications of staff, children's progress records, policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by speaking with some of them during the inspection and by reading parents' written comments.

Inspector

Jennifer Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leadership is strong. Staff are well supported to work together as a team. Experienced staff skilfully support those who are less experienced. Recruitment procedures are rigorous and managers supervise staff effectively. Staff training and additional qualifications are encouraged and supported. Safeguarding is effective. Staff follow up-to-date procedures and receive regular training to enable them to effectively protect the children in their care. Managers analyse the progress of groups of children to identify where any gaps in learning occur. Managers take account of the views of staff, parents and children when making plans for the development of the nursery. Self-evaluation is used effectively to ensure continuous improvements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children make good progress in their learning and teaching is typically strong. Staff carefully observe and assess children's progress and provide a good variety of activities that motivates them to learn. Staff quickly identify any children, or groups of children, who need additional support. Any gaps in learning are quickly addressed as staff typically plan to meet individual developmental needs effectively. Children are enthusiastic and active learners. They are keen to explore their environment and interact well with their friends. Staff are playful and help to encourage children's imagination. For example, children stir flour and water together when they pretend to make a cake. They learn new words, such as 'ingredients', and develop good communication and language skills. Staff question children and help them to think critically and solve problems.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

There is a calm and happy atmosphere throughout the nursery. Children behave well and staff set consistent boundaries that support their sense of security. Children learn to be polite and respectful to each other and to ask for help when they need it. They learn to take turns and share toys with their friends. They have fun playing together in the garden and they develop good skills of coordination. Children are physically active and they learn about the natural environment outdoors. The nursery cook provides a healthy balanced diet for the children. Babies are well cared for and they learn to feed themselves. Children learn about the different traditions and customs of their friends and they explore each other's cultures.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of all abilities are well prepared for school. Older children learn to recognise and write letters and numbers. They know the letter names and their sounds. Children develop a love of books and know where to find their favourites. They change their clothes independently and manage their personal tasks well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY308464
Local authority	Redbridge
Inspection number	1061918
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	54
Name of registered person	Premier Childcare Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP525595
Date of previous inspection	21 November 2013
Telephone number	0208 553 1886

Balfour Nursery registered in 2005. It is situated in Ilford in the London Borough of Redbridge. The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm on Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. There are 12 members of staff including the manager. The provider holds early years professional status; two staff, including the manager, hold early years qualifications at level 5; five staff hold qualifications at level 3; and four at level 2. The nursery receives early education funding for children aged two, three and four years old and early years pupil premium funding.

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