

Baby Room Balham

22-23 The Boulevard, 205 Balham High Road, London, SW17 7BW



Inspection date

1 December 2016

Previous inspection date

15 December 2015

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

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The provider has not ensured that the premises are secure at all times. The front door does not always close fully and, on some occasions, it is left ajar and unattended by staff. This compromises children's safety and is also a breach of the Childcare Register.
- Management is not fully effective at supporting staff practice and addressing inconsistencies in teaching. Not all staff who work directly with the children are made fully aware of all their individual learning needs to help them consistently meet these.
- The systems for assessing, monitoring and planning for children's progress are not precise, to help staff to support children's consistent progress. In addition, the manager and staff do not effectively obtain parents' views on children's starting points.
- Self-evaluation is not thorough. The management team does not address identified weaknesses effectively to meet all requirements of the early years foundation stage.

It has the following strengths

- Staff stimulate children's interest in books. For example, they encourage them to join in repetitive phrases and provide opportunities for children to listen to recorded stories.
- Staff help children learn to resolve sharing issues and to take account of the needs of others. This helps children build further on their social skills.
- Staff provide opportunities for children to explore different media and materials. For example, older children use feathers and leaves for their artwork and younger children explore play dough.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and the Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due Date
■ take appropriate steps to ensure that unauthorised persons cannot gain access to the premises at any time	07/12/2016
■ ensure that all staff working directly with children understand their individual learning needs, to help provide consistently strong teaching and make sure children consistently enjoy quality learning experiences	15/12/2016
■ ensure effective systems are in place to assess, monitor and plan for children's learning, including making best use of information that parents share when children start at the nursery.	15/12/2016

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

- improve self-evaluation to effectively identify and promptly address weaknesses in practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspection was carried out following a risk assessment process.
- The inspector observed children and their interactions with the staff.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and held discussions about children's learning and progress, and staff practice.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents including children's learning records.

Inspector

Geetha Ramesh

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The manager does not consistently minimise identified risks to children's safety. For example, on some occasions, she does not ensure that the front door always closes securely to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises. The manager does not monitor staff's performance consistently. For example, staff do not all consistently receive effective support to develop all aspects of their teaching practice and help them deliver quality learning experiences to children. The manager has used self-evaluation to make some improvements. For example, she has started monitoring children's progress, although this is still not yet fully effective. Nevertheless, appropriate support is in place for children learning English as an additional language, which helps reduce gaps in their learning. The manager establishes close links with local schools and this helps children's move on to school go smoothly. Safeguarding is effective. Management monitors staff's ongoing suitability and ensures they have a clear understanding of child protection issues.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff complete some observations and assessments of children's progress, however this is not yet fully effective. For example, not all staff looking after babies have detailed information about parents' views on their children's likes and dislikes to help them plan enjoyable experiences for them. Teaching is inconsistent. Nonetheless, staff provide opportunities for older children to develop their mathematical skills such as learning to represent numbers using their fingers. They encourage young children's creativity, for example toddlers enjoy exploring musical instruments. Staff reinforce babies' babbling and describe what they do which helps support their early communication skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children's safety is not assured at all times, as the front door is not kept secure, although staff supervise children well within their room bases. Staff do not consistently teach children to build on their independence skills such as learning to put on their shoes and coats. High staff turnover has resulted in changes to key-person arrangements. For example, not all staff are aware of all of the needs of the children with whom they work. Nonetheless, children are happy and settled. Children develop a healthy lifestyle. For example, they regularly enjoy exercise both indoors and outdoors. They build confidence in trying new experiences such as learning to ride wheeled equipment. Any accidents are appropriately treated and recorded by staff who hold first-aid qualifications.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children do not always make best possible progress from their starting points. However, all children learn to share and respect each other. They enjoy using technological equipment. Older children develop skills that prepare them for their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY423833
Local authority	Wandsworth
Inspection number	1078769
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	59
Number of children on roll	49
Name of registered person	Baby Room Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP525622
Date of previous inspection	15 December 2015
Telephone number	0208 675 7276

Baby Room Balham registered in 2011. It is located in Balham in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The nursery is open on weekdays from 8am to 6.30pm, all year round, except for one week at Christmas and on bank holidays. The provider employs 13 members of staff who work directly with the children, 11 of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications. Of these, two hold early years professional status, two hold qualifications at level 6, two at level 5 and five at level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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