

The Old Station Playgroup

33 Three Colt Street, London, E14 8HH



Inspection date

2 February 2017

Previous inspection date

14 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

- The management team and staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of how to support children's safety and security.
- Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene procedures.
- Staff provide stimulating activities and resources to enable children to develop, learn and make good progress.
- Staff effectively challenge children to investigate. For example, they enable children to notice the properties of change and growth within the natural environment.
- Children take part in a wide range of physical activities and show increasing control over their movements.
- The manager regularly assesses staff's knowledge and skills, such as through the process of one-to-one supervision and appraisals. She actively support staff's professional development and targets their training needs to enhance the experiences they provide for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some staff do not fully make the most of activities and opportunities to enhance children's mathematical understanding and skills.
- Staff miss opportunities to encourage children whose home language is not English to hear and use their language fully, to represent and value their identity even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities throughout the day for children to strengthen their mathematical skills
- extend opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to hear and use their home language.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the manager about their practices and spoke to the staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector observed staff's interaction with the children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation and records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to at the inspection.

Inspector

Jennifer Liverpool

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff carry out daily risk assessments to remove any hazards that may pose a risk to children's safety. The manager and staff have a secure knowledge of child protection issues. They know the signs and symptoms that may give cause for concerns and how to proceed if a child is at risk of harm. The management team implements efficient recruitment procedures to check the suitability of staff to work with children. The manager has addressed the recommendations set at the last inspection. This had led to children acquiring skills in using technology and, overall, children's communication and language skills are developing well. Staff have good relationships with parents to support children's care and learning between home and the setting. The manager and staff regularly evaluate their practice to raise the standards of care and learning. For example, they completed a quality assurance scheme last year.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff gather information from parents about children's starting points and plan activities to build on children's existing skills. Staff use their observations and assessments of children's abilities well to identify the next steps to move children on in their learning. The manager checks staff's assessment records and takes appropriate action to identify and close any gaps in children's learning and development. Children have free access to a broad range of resources that helps them to make choices about their play and develop their independence. Staff play alongside children helping them to learn to share and take turns, so that they develop friendships and understand what is acceptable behaviour.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff implement the key-person system well. They work closely with parents to arrange children's transition from home to the nursery. Children settle well and have a trusting relationship with their key persons. Staff help children to develop their awareness of healthy eating, for instance, when talking to children about food during routines and activities. Children gain a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they regularly practise the emergency procedures with staff and respond to requests to walk and not run indoors.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. For example, young children learn to join materials and take them apart, and use their senses to develop their curiosity about the natural world. Children's literacy skills are developing well. For example, young children show an interest in sharing books with adults and older children eagerly join in when staff read stories. Older children show an enjoyment in mark making and some begin to write the letters in their name. They gain the necessary skills in readiness for their move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY458790
Local authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	1063321
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Limehouse Childcare Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP909835
Date of previous inspection	14 November 2013
Telephone number	0207 538 3355

The Old Station Playgroup registered in 2013. It operates from a converted railway arches building in Limehouse, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The playgroup opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm, for 39 weeks of the year. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two and three years. The provider employs eight staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 3 to level 5.

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