

Castle Day Nursery

The Sanderstead Hall, Purley Oaks Road, SOUTH CROYDON, Surrey, CR2 0NR



Inspection date	10 March 2017
Previous inspection date	3 February 2015

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			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children have a good relationships with staff, including key persons, who are successful in promoting their confidence and emotional well-being.
- Staff engage children in enjoyable activities. Children display good concentration and perseverance. They make good progress from their starting points and are well prepared for their next steps in learning.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff are positive role models. They manage children's behaviour in a positive way.
- Managers are committed to helping staff improve their practice so that they know how to monitor and evaluate children's progress effectively. They provide good quality feedback to staff and take action to ensure that they can continually improve.
- Effective recruitment and vetting procedures are in place. Staff working with children are suitable to do so. They are qualified and committed to providing good quality care.
- Staff develop effective partnerships with parents and are proactive at sharing information about children's progress. Parents are involved in their children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always accurately match activities to children's abilities to enable them to make consistent progress in their pre-writing skills and mathematical development.
- Staff do not always encourage children to think and make their own contributions during adult-led group activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the planning of early writing and mathematical activities to ensure they are better matched to children's abilities so they make more consistent progress
- build on the teaching techniques used to enhance children's thinking skills and enable them to express their ideas more freely.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in the indoor and outdoor environments and assessed the impact this has on children's learning and development.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents about children's progress, including planning, children's records, assessment and tracking documentation. The inspector examined evidence of staff's suitability and a range of other documentation including policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with managers.
- The inspector held meetings with the management team and staff.
- The inspector examined risk assessment records, security measures and the setting's compliance with data protection.

Inspector

Victoria Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend regular training on child protection issues and show a secure understanding of their duty to safeguard children. Managers use successful recruitment and induction processes to ensure staff are suitable and clear about their roles. For example, they have introduced a new staff handbook and staff are clearer about their responsibilities. Leaders use regular supervision and appraisal systems to assess staff practice and use these to identify some professional development opportunities. Parents, staff and other providers have established suitable partnerships. There is a good flow of information between them. They work together to provide consistent and coordinated care for each child, which helps to meet children's individual learning and development needs. Managers evaluate the provision and seek the views of parents and staff. For example, they have identified reviewing and computerising their assessment and data tracking systems to monitor children's progress more carefully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff provide varied and meaningful experiences that build on children's interests and imagination. For example, children enjoy playing in the imaginative role-play area. They roll out pastry to make special cakes and prepare vegetables into a cauldron to make 'pop corn soup' for tea. Staff encourage children to extend their communication, language and problem solving skills. They discuss and compare the colours and size of the cakes and whether there will be enough soup for everyone to share.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are settled, happy and separate well from their parents. They arrive at the nursery excited to play and learn. Staff compliment children on their efforts and provide lots of praise, which boosts children's self-esteem and confidence. Children are familiar with routines such as self-registration, snack and circle times, which helps them to know what to expect at different times of the day. Staff provide children with calm guidance on safety and behaviour, reminding them to walk indoors, speak in a quiet voice or to use gentle hands. Children have regular opportunities to be physically active outdoors.

Outcomes for children

All children, including those with special educational needs and those who learn English as an additional language, make good progress in their learning. Children cooperate, lead their own learning, develop their negotiating skills and value each other's contributions. For example, as they organise and plan the rules of their racing game, and celebrate their successes by praising each other when they win. Young children have opportunities to join in activities with older children. This helps them to acquire good social and communication skills. Children gain the skills they need for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY358181
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	1085874
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	70
Name of registered person	Castle Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP910946
Date of previous inspection	3 February 2015
Telephone number	07984 283240

Castle Day Nursery is privately owned and opened in 2007. It operates from a Memorial Hall in Sanderstead. The nursery is open from 8am to 3pm, from Monday to Friday, during term-time only. Twelve staff are employed at the nursery including the two owners. Of these, eleven have relevant childcare qualifications at level 2 and 3. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two and three years.

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