

Under the Willow Nursery

Under the Willow Nursery, 198a Croxted Road, LONDON, SE21 8NW



Inspection date	27 June 2017
Previous inspection date	6 January 2014

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:

- Key persons do not consistently make the best use of all opportunities to help children build on their relationships with them.
- Partnerships with parents and other settings that children attend require improvement. The management team does not consistently support a two-way flow of information with parents. The team has not developed effective procedures to share information with other settings that children attend.
- Monitoring of staff practice is not fully effective and there are inconsistencies in teaching practice. On some occasions children are not fully engaged and their learning is interrupted. Not all children make the best possible progress.
- Self-evaluation is not fully successful. Although the manager has identified most areas of weakness, improvement action is still in its initial stages and not fully effective.

It has the following strengths

- Children have opportunities to build on their physical skills. For instance, young children learn to crawl and walk and they explore while riding on play vehicles.
- Staff provide opportunities for young children to learn the meaning of words. For instance they introduce words such as 'scoop' and 'pour' and they use opportunities in children's play to model these actions.
- Staff encourage older children to share experiences that are special to them. For instance, children confidently sing songs to the group in their home languages and kindly state that they can 'teach' the song to others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
■ ensure that all key persons make best use of all opportunities to help children build relationships	15/07/2017
■ improve arrangements for a regular two-way flow of information with parents and other settings that children attend	15/07/2017
■ improve arrangements for staff training and support to help establish consistency in the quality of teaching.	15/07/2017

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

- improve self-evaluation to identify and address all weaknesses in practice and provision.

Inspection activities

- The inspection took place following Ofsted's risk assessment process.
- The inspector observed children and their interactions with the staff.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documents, including children's learning records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and assessed the arrangements for monitoring staff performance.
- The inspector took account of the views of staff, parents and children.

Inspector

Geetha Ramesh

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The management team has not addressed all areas of weakness successfully, although it has made some improvement towards previous recommendations. The team does not always inform parents promptly of matters that affect their children's time at the setting or establish links with other settings that children attend. Teaching practice is inconsistent. Nevertheless, the manager supports individual staff and is taking some steps to address this issue. For instance, following training, staff have identified further ways to support children's free choice. The manager reviews individual children's progress and works in partnership with external professionals to help support staff to identify concerns for individual children's learning. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an up-to-date knowledge of the nursery's policies and procedures relating to protecting children's welfare and know how to refer child protection issues. The management team ensures that there are adequate staff to care for the children. Overall, the provider takes appropriate steps to deal with complaints.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Some staff miss opportunities to challenge children effectively in their learning. For instance, during a book reading activity, they did not question older children skilfully or encourage their participation. They miss some opportunities to identify occasions when children are not engaged and to redirect them to enjoyable play experiences. Nevertheless, overall, staff take account of individual children's learning styles and plan appropriate next steps in their learning. They provide opportunities for babies to get to know each other. For instance, they choose a 'helper' to hand out the water beakers and make use of this opportunity to help them learn other children's names. Staff encourage older children to build effectively on their understanding of the world, for instance, as they go on visits to the local supermarket.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Key persons do not support children well enough to help them build consistent relationships. For instance, they hand over responsibilities, such as nappy change and feeding routines, to other staff and do not make the most of all opportunities to interact with the children. Nevertheless, overall, staff meet children's personal needs appropriately and supervise them effectively to ensure their safety. Staff support children's independence at mealtimes. For instance, older children learn to serve food onto their plates. Appropriate arrangements are in place to record information relating to accidents, incidents and medication, and the management team reviews these regularly to identify any patterns and to plan improvements. The team completes regular risk assessments and take necessary steps to minimise hazards to children's safety.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are not consistently engaged in activities due to the variable quality of teaching. Nevertheless, they generally behave well and learn to take account of the needs of others. Overall, they develop a range of skills in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY453559
Local authority	Southwark
Inspection number	1101019
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	56
Name of registered person	Under the Willow Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531969
Date of previous inspection	6 January 2014
Telephone number	0208 761 7972

Under the Willow Nursery registered in 2012. It is located in Dulwich, London. The nursery operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm. It is open all year round, except for a week at Christmas and on public holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free nursery education to children aged three and four years. The provider employs 16 staff. Of these, 11 staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 or above; one of whom holds qualified teacher status.

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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