

The Alphabet House Nursery Schools

Alphabet Nursery, 23 Harold Road, Upton Park, London, E13 0SQ



Inspection date	26 July 2017
Previous inspection date	27 February 2014

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

- Staff observe and assess children's progress effectively. They identify learning priorities and plan interesting activities according to the children's current needs and interests. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Senior leaders provide support for staff. Staff are encouraged to improve their knowledge and skills, such as through training. They benefit from regular meetings to discuss and monitor the progress of their key children.
- Relationships with parents are good. Parents enjoy providing information and photographs of what the children do at home. The newly introduced system provides them with easy access to their children's progress records. They view children's planned next steps in learning to help them to complement the children's learning at home.
- Children are settled and have very strong relationships with the adults. They understand the daily routines and respond to staff's instructions quickly. Children behave very well and understand safety.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, adults do not allow enough time for children to think and respond to a question before moving on to the next.
- Resources are not easily accessible to enable children to explore and investigate their learning independently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of opportunities to extend further younger children's growing imagination, vocabulary and communication skills
- review the organisation of the learning environment to make it easier for children to independently select the tools and resources to extend and expand their growing curiosity and imagination.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children during a range of activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with the manager, staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector sampled a wide range of documentation, including staff suitability checks, children's development records and attendance registers.

Inspector

Christine Lamey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a good understanding of how to deal with any child protection concerns. The manager implements thorough recruitment and induction procedures that help ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The staff and the manager monitor children's overall development in specific groups and track their individual learning effectively. Children who may be falling behind are swiftly identified and specialised support is sought. The manager and staff work closely with other professionals who are involved with children and their families to share information and secure their welfare. Self-evaluation is used effectively to capture the views of staff, children and parents, and clear action plans are in place to develop the service even further. For example, the staff have recently developed the soft-play area for babies and installed a planting and digging area in the well-resourced garden.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff play with the children at their level, for example, painting on the ground on large sheets of paper and washing the tractor in the nursery car wash. Children learn about quantities and numbers. For example, they fill up watering cans and discuss whether they are full or empty and which one holds the most water. On the whole, teaching is good. Older children learn to write their names and younger children enthusiastically join in with songs, rhymes and stories.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The well-qualified and experienced team provides a very nurturing and welcoming nursery where children have positive learning experiences. Children enjoy physical play indoors and outdoors. For instance, they climb on static wooden stepping stones with the help of adults. Children develop their balance and learn about playing safely. Staff successfully help children to enjoy the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. For example, children are able to choose the healthy snacks that are on offer each day. Staff have worked well to address previous recommendations. For example, children learn about the natural world and how things change over time. They care for two pet hamsters and learn about their eating and sleeping habits. Children have also worked with a parent to pot plants and herbs, and are able to water these independently.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good or better progress. Children develop the skills they need for future learning and for school. Children play very well with each other. They are keen and interested in the activities on offer. They explore and follow their interests with enthusiasm. Children laugh and share a lovely time spraying each other and the staff with water from a pressurised watering can. They gleefully learn how to use the pump action to make it work.

Setting details

Unique reference number	132242
Local authority	Newham
Inspection number	1068477
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	60
Number of children on roll	91
Name of registered person	The Alphabet House Nursery Schools Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901724
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2014
Telephone number	020 8548 9466

The Alphabet House Nursery Schools registered in 1999. It is situated in Upton Park in the London Borough of Newham. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am until 6pm all year round. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The nursery employs 11 members of staff, of whom nine hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 5. The director holds qualified teacher status and early years professional status.

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