

Ladywell Preschool

Ladywell Childrens Centre, 30 Rushey Mead, Brockley, London, SE4 1JJ



Inspection date	18 September 2017
Previous inspection date	13 June 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

- Indoor and outdoor play spaces are thoughtfully organised. Children enjoy learning as they move around freely and make good progress overall. Any children who start below typical levels of development are well supported to catch up to their peers.
- Staff are attune to the needs of new children settling in. Staff put children at ease quickly and encourage them to play and explore their new surroundings.
- Staff are extremely welcoming to new parents. Parents are kept up to date about their children's progress and know how staff intend to further extend children's skills.
- Children quickly build good relationships with the warm, friendly and approachable staff. Staff provide a secure base from which children venture away to explore or seek to join in the play of others.
- Staff work extremely well as a team and constantly share a dialogue about routines, activities and children's responses. Training has helped staff to develop their confidence when talking to parents and reporting on children's progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although teaching is consistently of a good standard, staff do not make the most of all opportunities to build as far as possible on children's knowledge and skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make use of all opportunities to build on children's learning as they arise, and increase the potential for them to consistently make rapid progress from their starting points.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sought the views of parents.
- The inspector checked documentation and talked to staff about their knowledge of safeguarding and the welfare protocols and procedures.
- The inspector observed children's play and interactions with staff and discussed children's progress.
- The inspector talked to the manager about aspects of leadership and management.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of the lunchtime routine with the manager.

Inspector

Jenny Griffiths

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager has a clear grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of the pre-school. She identifies children who are at risk of falling behind and makes plans to close any gaps in their learning. After supervisory meetings with staff, positive steps have been taken to ensure that staff have sufficient time to plan and prepare activities. Relationships between the staff and parents are very strong. Parents enjoy opportunities to regularly consult with staff about their children's development. Team working is a strength. Staff are extremely vigilant and keep children safe as they move around freely, making full use of all available spaces. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are alert to any possible signs of abuse and understand the appropriate steps to follow when concerns arise.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's mathematical skills well. Staff challenge children to count how many children are present in the group and count backwards when tidying up. Staff also encourage children to 'have a go' at counting in their own home language. Outdoors, children have plenty of opportunities to explore their physical skills. Children are inquisitive and eager to search for insects hiding underneath the logs outside. Staff skilfully draw children's attention to the features of the insects and encourage children to describe what they can see. Staff also help children to link letters and sounds as they read labels in the outdoor area. However, there are occasions when staff do not make the most of opportunities that arise to help children put their ideas into practice, acquire new knowledge and develop a wider range of skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn to keep themselves safe from injury as staff remind them to slow down before jumping. Children are reminded to check how many children are present so that no one is left behind when leaving the room. Children handle tools, such as rolling pins and cutters, with care. Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff are extremely supportive to parents of new children who are settling in. Staff take time to offer reassurance and answer any queries. New children settle in remarkably well and quickly find their way around. Parents and children find out about the pre-school when invited to attend initial 'stay-and-play' sessions. Staff have developed positive links with schools that children move on to. Information gained is used to help children prepare for the move to school. Children show awareness of good hygiene practices and enjoy eating healthy foods at mealtimes.

Outcomes for children are good

Children particularly enjoy being active and energetic. They test how high they can jump from different positions on the soft-play structures and confidently climb in and out of the ball pool. Children begin to develop their early literacy skills as they experiment with large chalks on the blackboard and choose books to read. Children also enjoy asking questions as they play. Any children who start at the pre-school below typical levels of development make good progress and catch up to their peers.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY357611
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	1062070
Type of provision	Sessional 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	27
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Pre-School Learning Alliance
Registered person unique reference number	RP900844
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2013
Telephone number	07896 761467

Ladywell Preschool registered in 2007. The pre-school is owned and managed by the Pre-School Learning Alliance. There are five members of staff, four of whom have relevant childcare qualifications of level 3 or above. The pre-school operates Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 1.30pm, during term time only.

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