

Cornerstone Academy

Heath Park Hall, Rusholme Avenue, Dagenham, RM10 7PR



Inspection date

26 September 2017

Previous inspection date

17 July 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

- The management team monitors children's progress effectively to identify any gaps in their development and it puts steps in place to support them further. All children make good progress from their individual starting points.
- Staff work well with children and establish effective relationships with them. They are kind and considerate, and children are happy, secure and independent.
- The manager offers regular support to staff and encourages them to undertake training to help improve teaching well overall. For example, staff now use their wider understanding of supporting two-year-old children, to better meet their needs.
- The manager reviews the quality of the provision effectively to help make improvements and support children better. For instance, children now have stimulating and interesting learning experiences outside.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although partnerships with parents are good overall, staff do not take all opportunities to engage parents more to help link children's learning between the setting and home.
- Although staff know children well and effectively help them to progress in their learning, at times they do not consistently set challenges to fully extend children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further ways to engage parents to support children's learning between the setting and home
- support staff to make the most of learning opportunities to further challenge and enhance children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked with parents, the provider, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the staff's interactions during activities indoors and outdoors, and looked at a range of resources and equipment.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's details and learning records, and the provider's insurance and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector had discussions with the provider about policies and procedures, and methods of assessing and planning for children's progress. The inspector also discussed how staff work with parents and other providers.

Inspector

Caroline Preston

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm and know how to follow reporting procedures. The provider knows to inform Ofsted of any significant events. The provider ensures staff are continually checked for their suitability and are fit to carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively. Staff understand the signs that may mean a child is at risk of extreme views or ideas. They are effectively deployed, supervise children well and maintain correct staffing ratios. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out of the premises, including the outside space and for when staff collect children from school, to help ensure children's safety. Staff work closely with other professionals to support children's needs. For instance, this has helped children with speech and language delay to improve their communication skills. Staff manage any accidents, complete relevant records and information about children, and inform parents of any accidents and incidents promptly.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use precise observations and assessments to plan for children's next stages of learning. Staff support children's physical development well. For example, children move energetically and they run, jump and climb confidently. They show good control as they draw simple shapes, turn pages in a book, and hold and use jugs to pour their drinks. Staff encourage children's language and communication effectively. For instance, children use single words and copy familiar expressions. Older children use simple sentences, for example, when playing with younger children. Children enjoy listening to stories and respond well to staff's questions about these. Staff support children's creative development well. For instance, children enjoy making pictures with different materials.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's understanding of health and hygiene. For example, children learn to wash their hands before eating and are offered nutritious snacks and drinks. Children learn to respect one another. For instance, they learn about the celebration of different cultural festivals with staff. Children are well behaved. Staff teach children about behaviour boundaries, such as sharing and taking turns with other children.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for their next stages in learning and for moving on to school. For instance, children who speak English as an additional language learn to speak English quickly. Children develop their imaginations well, as they splash and manipulate cornflour while pretending to make 'soup'. Children skilfully organise and design different shapes with construction materials. They look for labels and recognise the letters of their names as they develop their early reading skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY469230
Local authority	Barking & Dagenham
Inspection number	1113710
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 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	22
Name of registered person	Cornerstone Academy Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP905870
Date of previous inspection	17 July 2014
Telephone number	07712649674, 07501075982, 01708709229

Cornerstone Academy registered in 2013 and it is run by a private provider. It operates from a community hall in Dagenham, in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The pre-school is open each weekday with sessions from 8.30am to 11.30am and 12.30 to 3pm, and then from 3.30pm to 6pm, during term time only. It may also be open during the holidays if there is enough demand. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs six staff. Of these, five staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3.

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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