

Under the Willow Nursery

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



Inspection date

21 May 2018

Previous inspection date

27 June 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 new manager effectively evaluates the provision. She seeks the views of parents, children and staff to identify areas for further development. She supports staff well and encourages them to access training which meets their individual needs and the needs of the setting. This helps to improve practice and children's learning experiences.
- Staff have a respectable knowledge of how children learn and demonstrate a variety of good teaching skills. They accurately plan motivating activities and resources around children's interests, ideas and next steps for learning. This helps children to make good progress from their starting points.
- Children form secure relationships with staff and benefit from a secure and nurturing environment. Younger children demonstrate this when freely exploring the resources and looking for reassurance when needed. Frequent praise and encouragement are given, which helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem.
- Parents unreservedly praise the staff and provision. They compliment the friendly and welcoming staff and like the individual care and attention their children receive.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to help children learn about risks and safety, such as how to handle resources in a safe way.
- Not all parents are encouraged to contribute actively to their children's next steps in learning and their overall assessment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure staff make the most of opportunities to enhance children's awareness and understanding of risks and safety
- build on the existing good partnerships with parents and involve them more in continuing children's learning at home and sharing in the assessment process.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery and held a meeting with the manager and owner.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of suitability for all staff working with the children.
- The inspector held two joint observations with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents during the inspection and took their views into account.

Inspector

Anja Eribake

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The new interim manager has the skills needed for her role and understands the importance of ensuring that a strong management team is in place to help continue the good work she has started. The manager has introduced the Montessori ethos, which has been embraced by staff and parents as well as children. The setting has a strong team of practitioners who are passionate about their work with children. Staff are fully aware of their responsibility to safeguard children and know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's safety or welfare. Safeguarding is effective. The manager monitors staff practice and the progress children make regularly to help ensure everyone makes good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff play alongside children to help them stay engaged and extend their learning. They use effective communication. For example, staff name the items that younger children pick up and describe children's actions. This means that children hear and learn words that reflect what they are doing and they make good progress in developing their vocabulary. Staff accurately assess children's learning and use this to support them in their play. They skilfully guide children's learning during activities that children choose themselves. This has a positive impact on children. Children are engaged in activities for long periods, exploring resources and trying to figure out how things work. Staff effectively teach children about quantities and healthy food choices.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff use effective methods to teach children about following routines. For example, when it is tidy-up time, they start singing a special song and model the expected behaviour. Children copy them and help by reminding their friends about it. Children are well supported to build friendships, play together and share resources. They also learn about personal hygiene, such as washing hands before mealtimes and brushing their teeth after lunch. Staff follow correct procedures if a child has an accident, helping to ensure that children's welfare is promoted. Children enjoy being active outdoors.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning. They develop a high concentration span and stay on task during activities. This shows that they enjoy learning. They become independent from early on, making their own decisions about their play. Babies enjoy playing in cornflour, making marks, and toddlers mould play dough, using different tools. This helps them to gain the skills needed for writing. Older children contribute to their learning during group time, sharing their ideas and experiences. Children acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to learning that prepare them well to start school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY453559
Local authority	Southwark
Inspection number	1108551
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Under the Willow Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531969
Date of previous inspection	27 June 2017
Telephone number	0208 761 7972

Under the Willow Nursery registered in 2012. It is located in Dulwich in the London Borough of Southwark. The nursery operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm all year round, except for a week at Christmas and during public holidays. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free nursery education to children aged three and four years. The provider employs 20 staff. Of these, three hold qualified teacher status and three hold a relevant degree. The setting follows the Montessori ethos.

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