

The Mulberry Preschool

The Mulberry Centre, 12a Calais Gate, London SE5 9LP



Inspection date	10 September 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- Children enjoy a wide range of activities. Staff provide a highly impressive learning environment inside and outdoors that stimulates children's interest, curiosity and excitement.
- The manager is enthusiastic and provides strong leadership. She has high expectations for the provision. She works alongside the extremely motivated staff to develop the provision and offer good outcomes for children.
- Children show high levels of self-confidence and self-esteem. Very young children learn to manage risk and take responsibility for themselves particularly well. For instance, children spontaneously wait at the edge of the park until the pathway is clear and staff confirm it is safe to enter. Children behave extremely well.
- The quality of teaching is good. Gaps in children's learning are quickly identified and addressed. Strong relationships with parents and outside professionals ensure that support is accessed to close the gaps in children's learning and help them to catch up.
- Parents comment that the menus provided are exceptional. Children are extremely independent and enjoy eating the fruit and vegetables they have grown. They develop a good understanding of how to recycle and use the compost heap. Children are supported to lead healthy lifestyles and receive healthy nutritious meals and snacks.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not make the best use of the information gained from analysing the progress made by different groups of children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build further on the arrangements for comparing the progress made by different groups of children and check that all groups receive the support they need to increase the potential for all children to achieve at the highest possible levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector looked at the relevant documentation, such as policies and children's records.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Angela Colman

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager uses effective systems to improve the quality of staff practice. For example, by organising relevant training and holding daily feedback meetings to discuss staff development, individual children's needs and safeguarding. Staff have a secure understanding of child protection and how to keep children safe. The manager and staff have robust policies, procedures and risk assessments in place for on-site and off-site activities to support children's safety. They know the early years foundation stage well and work effectively to promote consistency in children's learning inside and outdoors. Staff attend extra training to strengthen their skills. For instance, the outdoor mathematics and literacy area has been developed to engage children who spend more time outside. The manager reflects on her practice to continually make improvements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The key-person system is established. Staff provide an exciting and stimulating range of activities that helps to motivate children to play and explore. They support children's language development effectively. Very young children are happy to speak in group situations. Children share their experiences and contribute ideas. They listen well and follow instructions carefully. Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop their hand-to-eye coordination and physical skills. This is demonstrated when children confidently cut grass from the garden and cut strips of paper to make sunflowers. Trays are set up outside with clipboards, pencils, brushes and buckets of water to encourage independent mark making. Staff use books and natural objects to broaden children's understanding of the world and help them develop their language skills. Staff make the most of these opportunities to talk to children. They encourage children to solve problems, ask them questions and allow them time to think and answer.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff get to know the families and children extremely well. There is an extensive range of highly stimulating resources which is carefully chosen for the differing age groups. Children feel safe and secure, and settle in quickly and easily. Mealtimes are very calm and sociable occasions. Children's understanding of their welfare is exceptional. This is evident during snack time when the children remind each other that when the whistle blows, they need to go to a member of staff to keep safe. Children are highly motivated to try new food and discuss the appearance and textures. They use their senses to develop their knowledge and understanding of different food. For example, studying the head of a pineapple and eating the seeds from the centre of the sunflowers they have grown. Children create large-floor books recalling recent activities through mark making, drawing, photographs and taking samples from nature.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of funded education and children who speak English as an additional language, make good progress in relation to their starting points. All children are developing the skills that they need for their move on to school. All children have a positive attitude to learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY536978
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	10076922
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Smallwood, Claire Marie
Registered person unique reference number	RP536977
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	07788584687

The Mulberry Preschool registered in 2016. It is based in Myatts Park in Camberwell, London. It has an urban nature ethos. The pre-school is open from 8.30am to 12.30pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm on Monday and Wednesday during term time only. There is a stay-and-play session for the community on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1pm. After-school sessions run all week. There is also a school holiday camp for school-aged children. There are currently two members of staff working with the children, both of whom hold a level three qualification in childcare.

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