

Inspection of Dolphin Day Nursery

243 Green Lane, MORDEN, Surrey SM4 6SQ

Inspection date: 13 December 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy their time at Dolphin Day Nursery, which is a stimulating, well-resourced and welcoming environment. Children arrive happy and in good spirits. For example, they warmly greet their friends and tell them, 'Hello, I have a Christmas card for you'. Children feel safe, secure and comfortable. Children of all ages are kind and caring. They are keen to take part in different activities. Children have positive attitudes to learning. Staff are good role models, showing respect and consideration for children and each other. This helps to forge strong relationships with the children that aids their emotional well-being effectively. Children benefit from the broad and balanced curriculum. For example, literacy features highly in the educational programmes and is promoted well. Older children can recognise and, often, write their names. Exercise books have been introduced to help children who want to practise their early writing at home. Mathematics also features highly in the curriculum. Children learn to use numbers, compare quantities and take measurements in various activities. They practise their physical skills enthusiastically. For instance, children enjoy climbing and balancing on wooden planks while playing outdoors. The high expectations for what children can achieve help them to make good progress.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The quality of teaching has improved significantly. Staff observe and monitor children's progress closely to identify and close any gaps in their learning, such as delays in speech. This helps to motivate and engage all children.
- Information sharing between staff and parents is effective. Parents spoken to during the inspection made positive comments about the service that they and their children receive. This helps to establish a consistent approach.
- Staff plan a variety of challenging activities to build on and extend what children already know. For example, when they noticed that children enjoyed building 'igloos', they revisited the activity to embed and recall previous learning. Staff engaged children in conversations related to the activity. Children shared their thoughts and showed good awareness of similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- Staff develop children's communication skills well, including those who speak English as an additional language. They read books and sing songs to help widen children's vocabulary.
- Children are physically active. One of their favourite activities is moving their bodies to the music. They practise their agility, balance and coordination successfully. Children receive lots of praise from staff, which supports their self-esteem and confidence.
- Staff create a safe and secure environment for the children. They remind children of the nursery rules, for example to use 'walking legs' indoors to

minimise accidents. Children's behaviour is good. They know how to share and wait for their turn patiently.

- Staff provide children with many opportunities to develop their independence skills. As a result, children, even the very young ones, are very keen to do things for themselves. For example, they help staff to prepare tables for lunch and to put things away.
- Staff provide children with home-cooked meals at nursery. They ensure that children have a variety of healthy, balanced and nutritious meals. However, at times, staff do not ensure that children wash their hands before handling food. This does not help to prevent the spread of germs.
- The manager took swift actions to address the actions raised at the last inspection. She worked closely with staff, for example, to improve the sleeping and nappy changing arrangements, to ensure that children's individual needs are met.
- The self-evaluation process is ongoing. One current focus is to increase children's access to natural resources to ignite their curiosity and imagination more effectively.
- There is a rigorous procedure for assessing staff's suitability to work with children. This helps to keep children safe. Staff find that they receive good support and guidance from the manager. However, training opportunities are not focused sharply to identify how individual staff members can raise their teaching to the highest level.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager has been working closely with other professionals to develop all aspects of the nursery. For example, the procedures for reporting allegations are now comprehensive, and are well understood by staff members. Accident and injury records are detailed and are readily available to share with relevant agencies if required. The manager and staff completed safeguarding training to enhance their knowledge of child protection issues. They know how to record and report any concerns to protect children's welfare. Staff are deployed effectively. This enables them to supervise children and offer them good support at all times.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- follow hand washing routines consistently to fully support children's healthy lifestyles
- extend the opportunities for staff to engage in targeted professional development, to help identify and build on their skills and achieve the highest possible standards of teaching.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477284
Local authority	Sutton
Inspection number	10114305
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	1 to 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	Thurn, Deborah
Registered person unique reference number	RP515447
Telephone number	02082881945
Date of previous inspection	13 June 2019

Information about this early years setting

Dolphin Day Nursery registered in 2014 and operates from church premises in Morden, in the London Borough of Sutton. It is open each weekday for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 7.45am until 6pm. The nursery employs four staff members. Of these, two hold a foundation degree and one holds a childcare qualification at level 3. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marisol Hernandez-Garn

Inspection activities

- The inspector and the manager completed a 'learning walk' around the nursery to discuss how the early years curriculum is organised, inside and outside.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager and evaluated the impact of the activity on children's learning. She discussed with the manager the improvements that they have made since the last inspection.
- The inspector spoke with parents to take their views of the nursery.
- The inspector interacted with children and spoke to staff at appropriate times during the inspection. She observed the teaching and care routines inside and outside.
- The inspector reviewed required documentation, including staff's suitability records, policies and procedures.

We carried out this inspection 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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