

Inspection of Littleelms@catford Green

Dempsey Court, Adenmore Court, Catford SE6 4BS

Inspection date: 14 February 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children settle exceptionally well in this welcoming and nurturing setting. They build strong relationships with staff that ensure they feel safe and secure. When babies become unsettled, their key person swiftly and easily comforts them. Children benefit from the close relationships staff have with parents right from the start, which helps them to meet children's needs and routines.

Children develop high levels of resilience to challenges and risk. They actively learn how to assess risks and continue their play safely. When completing an obstacle course, toddlers learn how far or high to step, to safely move through each section of the course. Older children learn balance and coordination as they negotiate an assault course and climb into the 'crow's nest' of their pirate ship. This also supports their physical development.

Children's behaviour is exceptional because staff are excellent role models. Children follow the clear rules and boundaries in place across the setting. They learn these from the outset and listen to appropriate questions and gentle reminders from staff, as needed.

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

- Leaders have an in-depth understanding of how to support good mental health and emotional resilience in children. They ensure all staff understand the importance of teaching children to understand and communicate their feelings and those of others. This builds children's confidence in speaking about how they feel and promotes their overall well-being.
- Leaders create an extremely ambitious curriculum that clearly focuses on what children already know and can do. There are very high expectations for what children can achieve in most areas of learning. Staff plan and carry out activities based on their in-depth knowledge of children's individual skills and learning needs. For example, they seamlessly take over an activity from their colleague and continue the quality learning experience.
- Children with additional needs receive high levels of support from staff. Leaders work very closely with support agencies to ensure staff are equipped fully to meet the advanced needs of the children that attend. Leaders embed the guidance and strategies from these agencies consistently. As such, all children, including those with additional needs, and those who receive additional funding, make significant progress in their learning.
- Staff provide a wealth of opportunities for children to develop their understanding of the community and world around them. For example, staff use stories to teach children about the similarities and differences of people in their community. They discuss how the characters in a story feel when excluded from

activities because of the way they look or sound. This helps children understand how to be respectful of others.

- Children's attitudes towards their learning are strong. Babies confidently walk over step and ramp apparatus independently or holding the hands of their key person. At times, they may stumble and fall. However, they pull themselves up and continue trying. Older children are patient and understand when others are using resources. They move on to another activity but politely ask their friends to let them know when they can have a turn.
- Children are well prepared for the next stages in their learning, including as they go on to school. Staff focus on supporting the skills children will need in the next room. The pre-school leader works closely with the local authority to understand the expectations of local schools. She leads her team to focus on children's independence and emotional readiness for their move to school.
- Staff support children's communication and language skills well. They role model taking turns in conversation and listening to what others have to say. Young children pick up coloured blocks and say the colour name, sometimes incorrectly. Staff repeat back the correct colour and children copy them. Staff praise their achievements. However, at times, staff do not expose older children to as wide a range of vocabulary as they could. For instance, in the pirate ship, some staff tell children that there are lots of new words they can learn about ships, but do not share these words with them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders create a positive safeguarding culture in the setting. They ensure that all staff have the skills and knowledge required to recognise when children are at risk of or suffering from abuse. There are clear reporting procedures in place. As a result, all staff know how to keep children safe and how to report their concerns. This includes wider safeguarding issues, such as the 'Prevent' duty guidance. Leaders and staff use risk assessments effectively for the environment and management of allergies to consistently ensure children's safety. Leaders use robust recruitment procedures, which mean that all adults in the setting are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- further support staff to introduce children to an even greater range of unfamiliar words, to build on their vocabulary.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2510407
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	10221879
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	63
Number of children on roll	109
Name of registered person	Little Elms Daycare Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902320
Telephone number	02038148016
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Littleelms@catford Green registered in January 2019 and is open Monday to Friday, all year round. The setting is based in the Catford area of Lewisham. The setting receives funding to provide early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are 22 staff employed at the setting. Of these, 10 hold a childcare qualification at level 3 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Danny Lydon

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector and leader carried out a learning walk together.
- The inspector observed staff and children at play and spoke with staff at convenient times.
- Parents spoke to the inspector and shared their views.
- A meeting was held with the leaders about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The inspector reviewed documents relevant to the inspection process.

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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