

Inspection of Les Petites Etoiles Montessori Crouch Hill

33 Crouch Hill, London N4 4AP

Inspection date: 6 September 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
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 flourish at this caring and well-organised nursery, and feel safe and secure. They are very well supported by staff, who understand their individual development and learning needs. Building children's confidence and independence is a key aspect of the provision. For example, older children attend to their own personal care and younger children learn how to wash their hands on their own and feed themselves.

Communication and language learning is supported by the bilingual curriculum offered. Staff model spoken English and French well. Children are encouraged to use words and simple sentences in both languages throughout the day: staff constantly switch between the two. This helps to broaden children's understanding of language and improves their thinking skills.

The provision is organised to enable children to follow their own interests. They freely choose the resources and equipment they are interested in. Staff play with them, supporting and extending their learning effectively. This also helps children to stay focused and engaged in activities for longer. Younger children's behaviour is good. From the moment they start, children learn the behaviour expected of them and the nursery routines they need to follow. They are taught how to develop positive relationships with others and the importance of empathy and understanding.

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

- The manager provides a clear vision for the nursery. She fully understands how young children learn and how to effectively support their personal and emotional development. She knows her staff very well, supporting them to improve their teaching skills through well-planned professional development and regular supervision. She makes herself available to staff when they require professional or personal advice and support. As a result, staff feel highly valued and very happy at work.
- Managers and staff are dedicated and passionate about their roles. They have high expectations for all the children they care for and want every child to become confident and successful in their learning. The Montessori curriculum supports this aim by providing opportunities for children to build on their previous learning and to regularly practise their skills.
- Settling-in procedures are generally good. Staff offer home visits where they gather as much information about the child as they can. This ensures children start learning from the moment they begin nursery. However, babies do not always have access to the resources and equipment they are interested in when transitioning from home. Giving them ongoing access would develop their

confidence and emotional security, helping them to settle more quickly.

- The key-person system is well established and highly effective. Parents mention the strong bonds that form between their children and staff. They appreciate the daily learning and care information that key persons share with them and the timely support they provide.
- Staff are knowledgeable about the needs of children who may need extra support. They work in partnership with parents and other professionals to ensure that children and their families get the targeted help they need.
- Language and reading support are good across the nursery. For example, there are well-stocked book areas in every room and in the outside area. There is also a lending library for children, where they can choose and borrow books to continue their love of reading at home.
- Overall, children's behaviour is good. However, staff in the pre-school room are not always consistent in their approaches to behaviour management. Expectations are not shared regularly enough with children and good behaviour is not reinforced during whole group and transition activities. Therefore, some children are not clear about what is expected of them at these times and, as a result, their behaviour can suffer.
- Staff provide children with lots of opportunities to be physically active and to develop their muscle control. For example, children use fishing rods to hook and retrieve plastic ducks from the water tray. This develops their hand-to-eye coordination and finger control. The outside area is well equipped to support the children's larger physical development. Children learn to keep themselves healthy. They enjoy well-planned nutritious meals and snacks.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand the importance of protecting children from harm and receive regular safeguarding training. They can recognise and understand the signs of abuse and are confident in their knowledge of how to keep children safe from radicalisation and female genital mutilation. Managers ensure that the suitability of all staff is checked before they start work at the nursery. Most staff are qualified to provide paediatric first aid and they always respond quickly to accidents. They complete risk assessments to help identify any potential hazards, ensuring the nursery is always safe and secure for the children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure babies have access to resources and equipment that interest them when settling in, further supporting their confidence and emotional security
- support staff in pre-school to consistently apply and reinforce behaviour

management expectations, developing children's understanding of how to behave well during whole group and transition activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2534303
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	10208540
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 3
Total number of places	41
Number of children on roll	47
Name of registered person	Les Petites Etoiles Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP529898
Telephone number	02070431821
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Les Petites Etoiles Montessori Crouch Hill registered in 2019. It is located in the London Borough of Islington. It operates each weekday, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6.30pm. There are 14 childcare staff, of whom nine are qualified. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 to 4 and three at level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Paul Church

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider 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 provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about the curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.

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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