

Inspection of Puss in Boots Nursery School

Gospel Oak Methodist Church, Agincourt Road, LONDON NW3 2NT

Inspection date: 28 September 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children flourish in this stimulating setting that centres around their individual needs and interests. They demonstrate that they feel extremely safe and settled. They separate easily from parents and carers. Children are warmly welcomed by staff and quickly become engrossed in the activities of the day. Staff have high aspirations for all children. They have an exceptional understanding of children's needs, based on first-hand observations and excellent relationships with parents. Staff consistently encourage the children to have a go, persevering and building resilience to setbacks. Children are eager, confident learners.

Children display excellent behaviour. Very patient and caring staff talk to them about how they are feeling and why. As a result, children understand their emotions and play together harmoniously. Children engage highly in play. They choose what to do and move with confidence around the setting, developing their imagination and working together successfully. They use available resources to build an aeroplane to 'fly up in the sky', carefully thinking the design to make sure it 'will land safely'.

Physical development is exceptionally well supported. Children laugh with delight as they skilfully access the vast range of climbing equipment on offer. They learn to assess risks and their own capabilities. For example, they decide if they need, or not, a mat under the swinging ropes.

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

- Staff provide consistently high-quality interactions with children. During activities, staff continually talk to children, adding in new words, such as 'goosey' and 'squidgy', and asking questions. Children demonstrate their increasing vocabulary and use more complex words, such as 'trickle', when dripping cornflower mixture on a 'rockhopper penguin'.
- Children benefit from unlimited access to fresh air and exercise. They enjoy the free flow to the outdoor area. In addition, they have wonderful opportunities to learn about the natural world during forest school sessions at the local park.
- Staff expertly engage children in conversation and discussion about healthy lifestyles. For example, children know that potatoes contain carbohydrates, which give you 'energy'. They explain that vegetables contain vitamins and help them to 'grow strong' and to have healthy teeth.
- Mathematical concepts are skilfully threaded into the routine and activities. Children spontaneously use mathematical language in their play, such as when they utilise measuring tapes to work out how far they jumped and who jumped furthest.
- Staff effectively promote a love of reading by displaying stories and reference

books in all areas. Children know traditional tales well. They enjoy acting out 'heaving' the enormous turnip. Staff expertly engage younger children, using props and pausing to allow them to join in with familiar phrases. Audio stories have been introduced to promote children's attention and listening skills further.

- Partnerships with parents are superb. The manager and staff involve the parents in all they do. They hold workshops where parents can meet the staff team and learn how to support children's development at home. Parents express their love of the nursery and speak highly of the 'amazing' staff team and inviting environment. They praise staff for their invaluable support, not just for their children but their whole family, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The manager rigorously monitors the impact of the curriculum, staff practice and children's progress. She makes highly effective use of self-evaluation and consultation with staff, parents and children to identify areas for development. Her drive for improvement is uncompromising. The ethos and vision for the setting are ambitious and focus on children's positive outcomes. These are shared by the passionate and enthusiastic staff.
- Staff report a high level of well-being. They say that they feel valued and appreciated. Staff praise the way in which the management team promotes their personal and professional development. This results in extremely low staff turnover and a highly collaborative working environment.
- The extremely passionate manager and her staff continuously evaluate children's learning, quickly identifying any gaps. All activities and teaching are expertly adapted to make sure every child can take part. This ensures all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make the best possible progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The safeguarding lead ensures that staff receive regular training to maintain knowledge pertinent to the needs of the children. Staff have a very good understanding of the signs that may indicate a child may be at risk of harm, including from radical and extreme views. Staff are very clear about what to do if they have a concern about the behaviour of another adult. They supervise children vigilantly and ensure a thoroughly safe and secure environment is maintained through daily checks. The manager and staff review policies and ensure accurate information is maintained about initial and ongoing suitability of staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY447154
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	10235785
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 3
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Puss In Boots Nursery School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP530790
Telephone number	02072672181
Date of previous inspection	7 October 2016

Information about this early years setting

Puss in Boots Nursery School registered in 2003. It is situated in Gospel Oak, in the London Borough of Camden. The nursery opens each weekday from 8.30am to 3.20pm, during term time only. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for three- and four-year-old children. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications between level 2 and level 6. The manager has achieved the postgraduate certificate in education in early years and holds early years professional status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Damiana Cornacchia

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- A learning walk was conducted across the nursery, to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- The views and opinions of children and parents were taken into account during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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