

Inspection of Docklands Day Nursery

24/26 Fairlop Road, Leytonstone, London E11 1BN

Inspection date:

8 November 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's learning, safety and well-being are not prioritised at this setting. The provider does not make sure that all staff understand child development. This is particularly relevant for the youngest children. Staff working with babies do not provide them with daily outdoor activities. In addition, babies spend long periods sitting at tables without any activity or engagement. Staff working with toddlers do not think about what they need to have learned before they can move to the next step. For example, staff expect toddlers to use scissors before they develop the necessary physical skills to be able to do so. This limits the progress children can make in their physical development. Staff do not know how to put babies and toddlers down to sleep safely in line with government guidance. In addition, they do not identify and eliminate hazards in the environment. This puts children's health and safety at risk.

Nevertheless, staff are kind and build warm relationships with children. They comfort children and reassure them if they become tired or upset. Children learn how to share and to respect each other. Staff teach children to use their manners, and older children enjoy helping to lay the tables. Staff give children healthy and nutritious meals. Older children talk about food and learn why it is good for them.

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

- The provider has failed to have adequate oversight of the quality and standards at the nursery. They have failed to identify breaches in the requirements and weaknesses in staff's performance. This has resulted in weak quality of teaching and inconsistent practice. In addition, the management structure is not clear for staff and parents. Induction procedures are not fully effective and are not done in a timely manner to help staff understand their roles and responsibilities. As a result, the provider is not meeting the statutory requirements for the early years foundation stage (EYFS). The quality of education and care, particularly for younger children, is poor.
- The key-person system is weak. Staff do not make sure that parents know who their child's key person is to be able to share information. Some staff do not know their key children well enough to be able to plan their individual learning. For example, staff do not know the languages children speak at home and how to promote their communication in English. This limits the progress that children who are learning to speak English as an additional language can make.
- Staff support some older children to develop their communication skills well. Children listen to stories, make spiders from play dough and learn that spiders make webs with silk. However, at times, the room becomes very noisy due to background noise and prevents children from being able to concentrate and learn. Some children become restless, and this does not support the

development of the skills they need for future learning.

- Older children enjoy outdoor activities and physical games. These help to develop their large muscles, their social skills and their ability to take turns and be part of a team.
- Some parents express their satisfaction with the communication provided and feel fully informed. However, some parents report that they rarely receive enough information about their children's education and the progress their children are making.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The provider does not ensure that all staff, including the designated safeguarding lead, understand the nursery's safeguarding policy and procedures. Some staff do not know the correct procedures to follow if an allegation is made against a staff member. Some staff do not know the signs that might indicate a child might be at risk of harm, including from extreme views. Some staff are not aware of the nursery's safeguarding policy on the use of mobile phones and smart watches. This means they do not comply with the policy and this puts children's welfare at risk. The provider has appropriate recruitment systems. However, they do not make sure that staff who are responsible for children's personal care have had an enhanced criminal records check completed. During the inspection, risks to children's safety were observed. These included damaged radiator covers, damaged sleeping mats, paint used with babies that was unsuitable for their age, sleeping babies located under an unsafe shelf with heavy toys on, building materials accessible to children in the garden, and children allowed to walk around while eating.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that all staff, including the designated safeguarding lead, understand the nursery's safeguarding policy and know the correct procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a staff member	02/12/2022

ensure that all staff follow the nursery's safeguarding policy in relation to the use of mobile phones and smart watches in the setting, and do not have them while working with children	02/12/2022
ensure all staff understand the government's statutory guidance the 'Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales' and know how to identify when a child or a family might be at risk of radicalisation or extreme views	02/12/2022
ensure that any staff member without an appropriate enhanced criminal records check does not provide any personal care to children	02/12/2022
improve oversight of the setting to ensure that the manager meets the responsibilities of their role so that all staff receive the support they need to improve their practice	02/12/2022
improve induction procedures to ensure that induction is carried out in a timely manner and helps staff understand their roles and responsibilities, the setting's policies and procedures, and professional development opportunities, to ensure they provide quality learning and development experiences for children	02/12/2022
improve the key-person system to ensure that staff know their key children and are able to meet their individual needs, that each key person is known to the child's parents or carers to promote positive relationships for all the family, and that all parents are kept up to date with their child's progress and development	02/12/2022
ensure that outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis for all children, including babies	02/12/2022

improve staff's knowledge and understanding of how to put babies and younger children to sleep, having regard to the latest government safety guidance	02/12/2022
implement an effective risk assessment system to ensure any potential risks are identified and eliminated, to keep children safe at all times	02/12/2022
ensure babies are not restricted with their movements for a long time, particularly when waiting for lunch or other daily routines	02/12/2022
improve the quality of teaching and plan age-appropriate challenging experiences for each child to support their good progress	02/12/2022
ensure that all children whose home language is not English have opportunities to develop and use their home language in play and learning	02/12/2022
ensure ongoing assessment of children is accurate and that staff understand how children develop and learn, and then shape teaching and learning experiences for each child, reflecting on that knowledge.	02/12/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY458063
Local authority	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Inspection number	10258867
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	44
Name of registered person	Docklands Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532296
Telephone number	07834169759
Date of previous inspection	6 February 2019

Information about this early years setting

Docklands Day Nursery registered in 2013. It operates in Leytonstone, in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. The nursery operates every weekday from 6.30am to 7pm, all year round. The nursery receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs 15 members of staff, 12 of whom hold relevant early years childcare qualifications at level 2 or above.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nataliia Moroz

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 deputy manager and the inspector discussed the organisation of the setting and the educational programmes during the learning walk.
- The inspector carried out two joint observations of group activities with the deputy manager.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided in all rooms, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- A sample of required documentation was viewed by the inspector, including evidence of the suitability of staff and safeguarding policies.
- The inspector spoke to the parents, the managers and children and took account of their views and experiences.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.

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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