

Inspection of KidsLab Day Nursery and Preschool

50 Skylines Village, Limeharbour, London E14 9TS

Inspection date: 9 March 2023

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 are happily engaged in activities in this caring nursery. They have warm, secure relationships with staff who take time to help children to settle well. Staff greet them warmly when they arrive. They use lots of eye contact and calm and soft tones. Children feel valued. Staff have high expectations of children.

The curriculum is securely based on areas of learning. Children learn about the wider world effectively. For instance, staff teach children about the life cycle of a butterfly. They plant daffodil bulbs with children to teach them how things grow. During this activity, children learn to share and to take turns. For example, they take turns to fill their pots when planting bulbs in soil. Children behave safely. They use the stairs with care and caution. Children handle tools, such as scissors, with care and caution. Staff teach children about road safety. Children act with care when crossing the road with adults. Children develop good creative skills. They explore different textures, such as of pasta and rice, which they use with toy animals to create imaginary farm scenes. Children use pencils and crayons of different colours to draw pictures. All children develop effective skills in preparation for school.

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

- Children have good early mathematical skills. Staff teach children to count, for example as they sing number songs and rhymes. As children play in the home corner, staff teach children that some foods are circle shaped and point out other shapes in the environment.
- Staff help children to gain literacy skills. For instance, they read stories to children, often in dual languages, to support children who speak English as an additional language. They teach children new words, for instance by singing action songs and rhymes.
- Children learn about difference. For example, staff make clay lanterns with children to celebrate Diwali. They talk about and celebrate other special religious and cultural events, such as Chinese New Year.
- Children learn to do things for themselves. Children aged as young as two to three years help to prepare their own snacks. For instance, they chop pineapples and pour their own drinks. All children learn how to put on their coats and shoes.
- Children behave well. Staff share group rules with children and explain why some behaviour is not acceptable. They use praise to encourage children to act in positive ways.
- Children gain good physical skills. Children learn to balance on wheeled toys; they climb up ladders and go down slides. Staff play simple ball games with children to develop their physical coordination skills. In addition, there is a

regular music and movement session which supports children's physical development further.

- The manager provides good support to staff. She ensures that staff have time away from the children to plan activities and organises regular team-building days. The manager meets with staff regularly to discuss work and provide support where needed.
- The manager is committed to the development of the skills and knowledge of her staff team. She ensures that staff attend relevant training courses, for instance on developing children's mathematical skills. This leads to improvements in this area.
- Staff question children effectively. However, at times, some staff do not consistently give children time to think and respond to questions. The manager evaluates the nursery and has good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses. Overall, she is clear about specific areas that she plans to improve. For instance, the manager sets a goal to develop children's communication, language and literacy skills further.
- Staff have good partnerships with parents. They work well with parents to support children's development. For instance, parents borrow books from the nursery to read at home to their children. This supports children's language and literacy skills. Staff give parents regular updates on children's progress.
- The manager ensures that meals and snacks provided to children are healthy, nutritious and meet special dietary needs. However, staff do not help children to gain understanding of the value of eating well.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff view children's safety with high importance. They ensure that the nursery is clean and safe. Staff carry out daily checks covering all areas to reduce risks of hazards. They keep nappy changing areas clean and there are effective hygiene procedures to reduce risk of cross infection. The manager ensures that background checks on staff are robust to ensure suitability for their roles. Staff have good safeguarding knowledge. All staff are up to date with child protection training and understand safeguarding procedures.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide children more time to think and respond to questions to develop their thinking skills further
- extend children's understanding of how healthy eating habits contribute to their overall health.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2600760
Local authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	10263826
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	Merrygoround London Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2600762
Telephone number	07450350954
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

KidsLab Day Nursery and Preschool registered in November 2020. It is located on the Isle of Dogs in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm all year round and is closed on public bank holidays. There are seven staff, including the manager, all of whom hold appropriate qualifications in childcare. This includes two staff who hold a level 6 qualification in early years. The nursery accepts funding for free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jenny Beckles

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- During the inspection, the inspector went on a learning walk around the nursery with the manager to discuss the aims of the curriculum.
- The inspector observed the interaction between staff and children and spoke with children, when appropriate.
- During the inspection, the inspector considered the views of staff and parents.

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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