

Inspection of Explorers Elm Park

33 The Broadway, Elm Park, Hornchurch RM12 4RN

Inspection date: 15 March 2023

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are truly at the heart of everything in this setting, which is extremely well organised and resourced to provide magical play areas for all children. Children are independent as a result and anything they imagine they can do. Older children decide to build a bridge out of blocks and carefully look at pictures of bridges and discuss what theirs will look like. Children happily separate from their parents and are welcomed by their friends and staff. They become deeply engaged in their learning as they explore their interesting environment. Staff offer a curriculum that sparks children's learning and curiosity and promotes their physical skills, social skills and rich language opportunities. For instance, children regularly take part in science and cooking sessions, where they predict, anticipate and experiment.

Babies are expert communicators and, for example use sign language to ask for water. They share and take turns as they look at farm animals. Staff weave children's love of literacy throughout the setting. Pre-school children act out a story that they wrote themselves. Staff make every conversation a learning opportunity for children. Children learn about which country their fruit has come from. Staff weave mathematical concepts into children's play naturally. For instance, children thread fruit onto a skewer and discuss the size and shape.

Children are extremely well behaved. From the baby room to the pre-school room, they consistently show respect for each other. Children are taught calming techniques to independently calm themselves down or solve a problem if they need to. They are highly motivated and demonstrate high levels of self control. For example, when a friend gets too close or takes a toy of theirs, they ask for help.

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

- Staff have high expectations for each child. The impact of this is that all children make exceptional progress at each stage of their development. Staff place a priority on each child's personal development. Children leave each room in the setting as confident children who are ready for the next step in their learning.
- Every child in the setting can communicate through actions or verbally. Staff teach all children to use sign language so that they can communicate from the baby room all the way to the pre-school room.
- Staff encourage empathy throughout the setting, which children demonstrate. Staff model empathy to children and, as a result, they are kind and caring towards each other. Older children help younger children do up their coats. Children pass food around the lunch table, sharing and dishing up for themselves. They also wash their plates after eating.
- Children are deeply engaged in activities and routines. They transition seamlessly from one activity to another. Staff make sure that everything that

children do has a purpose and that they are learning at every turn.

- Children are valued. They are given choices and vote to have their say. Children are learning about tolerance of others. They share and take turns and are happy for others to join in their play.
- Children are exposed to a wealth of rich experiences, such as links with the community. Babies take daily walks to the park to visit the ducks. They come back to the setting and talk about what they saw on their walk. Children are exposed to a range of sessions to enhance their learning, such as sports sessions, music and movement sessions and daily cooking and science experiments. Children visit the library, the greengrocer and the flower shop. They learn about their community and different occupations.
- Children have opportunities for developing physical skills, such as through weekly visits from a sports coach. Babies take part in rhyme time, which also focuses on developing their physical skills.
- Children display positive attitudes to their learning and listen with intent to instructions. They are excellent listeners. As a result, children have a deep understanding of instructions and expectations. They take turns in conversations and are aware of the feelings of others.
- Parents share their aspirations for their child within the setting. They say that staff support children over and above what they would have expected. Some parents say that they will not move out of the area because their children are so happy in the setting.
- The manager is inspirational. She values her staff and ensures that they are part of any progress or change. Staff respect each other and model this to the children. The manager is sensitive to ensuring the utmost safety of children and staff. Staff use unfortunate events as a learning opportunity for the whole team. They identify and quickly deal with any issues.
- Professional development is a priority for the manager and her team. Staff complete all compulsory training and also attend a variety of other professional development courses to positively impact practice, such as safer sleep and healthy eating training.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children and staff are safe at this setting. The manager and her staff place a priority on keeping children safe. They evaluate practice and amend policies and procedures regularly to ensure this. Every member of staff is aware of the procedure to follow if they have a concern about a child or a member of staff. Managers ensure that staff have clear policies to follow if they have concerns about their colleagues' practice. The environment is safe and secure. Staff use risk assessments effectively in minimising risks to children. Practitioners read case studies to learn from others. All staff are knowledgeable about going over and above to keep children, themselves and their colleagues safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2620097
Local authority	Havering
Inspection number	10264725
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	67
Name of registered person	Cook, Richelle
Registered person unique reference number	2515340
Telephone number	07854218146
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Explorers Elm Park is situated in Hornchurch, in the London Borough of Havering. It was registered in 2020. The setting is open all year round from 7.30am until 6pm, each weekday. It employs 15 members of staff who all hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 3 to level 7. The setting offers funded early years education to two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Leanne Bnidar

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 manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about the curriculum and what they want 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 on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023