

Inspection of Ladels Day Nursery Limited

Ladels Day Nursery, Highbury Avenue, THORNTON HEATH, Surrey CR7 8BQ

Inspection date:

28 March 2023

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children arrive happy and settle quickly. They are aware of the routines during the day. This helps them to feel secure and know what is expected. Children behave well and listen to staff. High expectations for behaviour mean children are polite and respond well to instruction. Children participate in group-time activities such as story time and singing. This supports communication and reading skills.

The nursery offers a variety of toys both indoors and outdoors. A construction area is thoughtfully created to inspire play. A dinosaur area with leaf netting and a tepee are used for younger children. Children generally play purposefully and use their imagination, for example making dinner for their friends in the home corner. Staff pose occasional questions to children, but opportunities to scaffold language and build on ideas are sometimes lost. Very young children decorate Easter eggs with glue and glitter in readiness for an egg hunt with friends. However, staff give too much direction, which limits children's opportunities to be creative.

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

- The nursery has a family feel. Overall, parents are happy with the care children receive and the progress they are making. Staff share verbal information upon arrival and at pick-up times. Paper reports are written termly, and parents sign to agree the next steps for the children's development. 'Golden moments' are shared periodically on an online app.
- Leaders and staff are ambitious for children to make good progress. However, the curriculum is not clearly constructed and understood by all staff and the quality of teaching is variable. This means that children do not make the best possible progress.
- Staff know children well and can describe their wants and needs. The nursery manager and special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) work closely with professionals such as the Croydon special educational needs team to support children. However, the information shared is not always communicated with staff, meaning children do not receive the full benefit of suggested strategies. The nursery responds well to the medical needs of the children. For example, they monitor the temperature of rooms for children sensitive to heat.
- Staff use risk assessments to ensure the nursery and garden are safe for the children. Children are learning to care for their environment. Staff ask the older children to help when they tidy away and toddlers help to sweep up after snack time. This gives children a sense of purpose and aids self-esteem. Staff praise children and encourage good behaviour.
- The nursery routine provides a well-established framework to the children's day. Children understand what is going to happen next. Babies and toddlers sit together at lunchtime to eat. This family-style approach provides an opportunity

for the children to mix. Pre-school children sit at tables to enjoy lunch and clear away their plates afterwards. This helps to prepare them for the move to school. Staff show a good awareness of allergy requirements.

- There are arrangements in place for the professional development of staff, such as peer observations and online training. However, a high level of new staff means early years knowledge is not yet fully embedded across the team. Leadership and management model good practice, such as identifying problem-solving opportunities for children creating a train track. However, there remain gaps in some staff's skills and understanding that have an impact on the quality of children's experiences at the setting.
- The nursery is clean and hygienic. Children learn how to keep themselves healthy. For example, they are reminded to drink water to keep themselves hydrated. There are healthy options available at snack time, when children are offered fruits and vegetables.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of safeguarding, such as being able to identify forms of abuse and what to do if it happens. Knowledge is kept up to date with online training courses and these include information about the 'Prevent' duty. Management pose safeguarding scenarios at staff meetings to ensure staff's understanding. The nursery environment is kept safe through regular risk assessments and there are numerous baby gates in position. Recruitment procedures are safe and all staff are checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
implement and maintain a curriculum that meets the individual learning and development needs of all children.	27/10/2023

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

- improve professional development opportunities to identify gaps in knowledge, skills and practice that will help raise the quality of the curriculum, staff interactions and learning activities provided for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY384154
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	10283987
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	62
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Ladel's Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP910226
Telephone number	02087644343
Date of previous inspection	17 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

Ladels Day Nursery Limited registered in 2003 and is privately owned. The nursery is located in Norbury, in the London Borough of Croydon. It is open weekdays from 7.30am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery is funded to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are 12 staff, eight of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Zoe Duggan

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the staff and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about each room.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector played alongside the children and sought their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The manager, SENCo and staff spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector carried out two joint observations in two different rooms with the manager.
- Parents spoke to the inspector during the inspection and shared their views.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

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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