

Inspection of Dunelm Grove Pre-School

23 Dunelm Grove, West Norwood, London SE27 9JP

Inspection date: 23 June 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and confident in this small, family-like pre-school. Staff know the children well, including their likes and dislikes, and carefully link their interests to activities. Children enjoy close bonds with staff, who interact warmly with them. Staff have high expectations of children and value each of them.

The curriculum is varied and interesting. Children develop a good understanding of the world. For example, staff teach children about the impact that cutting down forests has on animal habitats. They teach them about people who help us, for instance by organising visits to fire stations. Children have good mathematical skills. Staff use mathematical language to describe size and shape, and children know different shape names. Staff sing counting songs and rhymes and count objects with children as they play. Children develop good physical skills. They practise throwing balls into nets to develop their coordination skills. Children learn to balance on beams and jump in and out of tyres. They learn to share and take turns, for instance as they pour their own drinks. Children have a good understanding about differences. Staff read stories to children that have multicultural and religious characters. Children play with toys and resources that reflect people from diverse backgrounds. Children make good progress and learn useful skills in preparation for school.

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

- Children develop good creative skills. They draw and paint using different tools and materials, such as paint, crayons and chalk. Children make three-dimensional models from play dough. They enjoy taking part in imaginative play where they pretend to take on different roles, such as at an ice-cream parlour.
- Children develop good independence skills. For example, staff teach children how to put their coats on. They learn good self-care skills, such as using tissues to wipe their nose.
- Staff support children's communication, language and literacy development effectively. They talk to and question children about the activities they are involved in and model good sentence structure. Staff read stories and sing songs and rhymes which teach children new words.
- Children behave well. Staff explain why acting in positive ways is important. They talk to children about why some behaviour is not acceptable and praise them when they behave well.
- Children act in safe ways. Staff teach children to sit down when eating, to avoid choking. Children walk indoors to reduce the risk of accidents. Staff teach children how to act with care and caution when crossing the road.
- The manager provides good support to staff. It is a very small, long-standing staff team. The manager regularly meets with staff individually to discuss work

and gives support where needed. She encourages staff to develop their skills and knowledge, for example by sharing ideas for practice with staff from other nurseries. Staff read current articles on early years matters to enhance their skills and knowledge.

- The manager reflects on all aspects of the pre-school and sets clear goals for improvement. For example, she plans to continue to develop partnerships with parents to promote best outcomes for children.
- Staff work well with parents. They talk to parents each day and provide reports on children's progress. Staff work closely with parents to support children's development, such as promoting positive behaviour.
- The manager ensures that children develop healthy habits. For instance, they ensure that children have daily opportunities for physical exercise outdoors. Staff offer healthy lunch box ideas to parents to promote best outcomes for children. They provide nutritious meals and snacks, which meet special dietary needs. Staff teach children good oral hygiene awareness. For instance, children brush their teeth after meals and staff invite local dentists into the pre-school to teach healthy routines for teeth and gums. Staff provide daily opportunities for children to go outside to practise a range of physical skills.
- Staff enable children to develop their own ideas as they play. However, at times, staff miss opportunities to take the lead in activities to add more direction in children's play, particularly for older children.
- The outdoor area is popular with children. However, activities covering different areas of learning are not fully developed to support those who learn best outdoors.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff view children's safety with high importance. They provide close supervision of children, indoors and outdoors, to keep them safe. Staff check all parts of the pre-school to reduce the risk of hazards. They have good safeguarding knowledge and attend regular training to keep up to date. Staff know what to look out for that may indicate that a child is at risk of abuse. This includes broader safeguarding issues, such as signs that a child is witnessing domestic abuse. Staff have a full understanding of the procedures to follow to protect children from harm.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- broaden opportunities for more adult-directed play to enhance children's learning, particularly for older children
- develop the outdoor area further to reflect areas of learning more fully to support those children who learn best outdoors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	144053
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	10295276
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	16
Name of registered person	Dunelm Grove Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP911111
Telephone number	02086702498
Date of previous inspection	11 December 2017

Information about this early years setting

Dunelm Grove Pre-School registered in 1993. It is located in West Norwood, in the London Borough of Lambeth. The pre-school is open from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am to 3.30pm. The pre-school employs three members of staff, including the manager, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The pre-school provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jenny Beckles

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the pre-school 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 pre-school.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- During the inspection, the inspector had a learning walk around the pre-school with the manager to discuss the aims of the curriculum.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children and spoke with children, when appropriate.
- During the inspection, the inspector held a meeting with the manager and sampled some documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of staff and parents during the inspection.

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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