

# Inspection of Little Gem's Childcare

105 Brent Lane, Dartford DA1 1QT

---

Inspection date:

6 July 2023 - 20 July 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 happy and secure in the setting. The manager warmly welcomes each child on arrival and children separate from their parents with ease. They confidently say goodbye and put their belongings away. Children quickly settle into the rooms for the day. They explore freely while adults engage with them and join in their play. Staff form positive relationships with children, offer them encouragement and promote children's positive attitudes to learning. This helps children to feel self-assured and confident.

Staff encourage children to be independent, which helps to prepare them for school. They learn how to use the toilet, wash their hands and serve their snack. Staff take the children out for first-hand experiences, such as visits to the local library, to feed the ducks on the lake, nature walks and local play parks.

Children are learning to understand the importance of oral hygiene and a healthy diet. They have opportunities to practise brushing teeth correctly through their role play and exploration. During snack and mealtimes, they taste a range of healthy fruits and enjoy the nutritious meals that staff provide. This supports children to learn and develop healthy lifestyles.

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

- Children enjoy activities to support their physical development. For example, they negotiate space as they ride scooters and bicycles in the garden. Children complete obstacle courses inside with the soft-play equipment. This involves balancing, climbing and coordinating their next move. Children are motivated and show a 'can-do' attitude.
- Staff prioritise children's communication and language development. For example, they follow children's lead in play. They listen and respond, modelling language and repeating new words and phrases. Staff provide a range of visual aids to support children's choices. This results in children of all abilities making good progress in their communication.
- Partnership working with parents is effective. Parents say they are happy with the care and education their children receive during their time at the nursery. They comment positively on the progress children make. They are kept up to date on their children's progress, such as through handover time at the end of the session. This helps extend children's learning at home, creating consistency.
- The managers find learning to benefit all staff and they are motivated to complete regular courses. For instance, staff have recently accessed training to help and support children's mental health. The staff team and manager work together effectively. Supervision and peer observations support staff to improve practice and enhance their interactions with children. Staff attend regular staff

meetings to support each other, share ideas and discuss good practice.

- The managers work effectively in partnership with external agencies. Staff identify children's needs quickly and put in place the extra support some children need. This ensures that children make good progress from their starting points, including children who speak English as an additional language and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Staff know the children well. They find out about children's interests when they start nursery. Managers plan a curriculum designed to help children build on what they already know and can do. However, during some parts of the day, the curriculum is not implemented as well by the staff. Staff do not always consistently extend children's thinking during their play and exploration. As a result, sometimes, children disengage and do not make the best possible progress in their learning.
- Overall, children behave well. They use good manners and learn to say 'please' and 'thank you'. Some adults give clear explanations so that children learn to understand the impact of their behaviour. This helps children respond positively and be considerate of others. However, occasionally, staff do not respond in a consistent manner, meaning that children repeat the same unwanted behaviours and do not understand why they are unacceptable.
- The provider failed to notify Ofsted of a significant event, as required. However, this did not result in any harm to children and the provider has taken appropriate action to address this issue. Ofsted does not intend to take any action on this occasion.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team ensures that staff complete regular training so that they can identify children at risk of abuse. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child or an adult. Managers ensure ratios are always met, and staff are deployed well so that children are supervised and kept safe during their time at the setting. Staff implement effective risk assessments to check that the environment and equipment are suitable for children's play and learning.

## What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- sharpen the implementation of the curriculum to enhance children's engagement and levels of concentration
- provide a more consistent approach to behaviour management to better support children's understanding of appropriate behaviour.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	2638680
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	10205663
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b>	2 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	20
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	30
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Duck, Gemma
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	2638679
<b>Telephone number</b>	07972 631514
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Little Gem's Childcare registered in June 2021. The nursery is based in Dartford, Kent and operates 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday all year round. The provider employs 13 members of staff, of whom five hold completed early years qualifications, including the manager who holds a level 6. The nursery receives funding for children aged three and four years.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspectors

Kimberley Luckham  
Sarah Taylor-Smith

## 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 nursery.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff.
- A further telephone event was made by an additional inspector in line with Ofsted's incomplete inspection process. This was because information that was applicable to the provider at the time of the inspection had been received after the inspection and before publication of the inspection report, necessitating a review and reapplication of the evidence gathered.

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](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2023