

Inspection of Sapphires Nursery School

St Mary's Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0ST

Inspection date: 6 October 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 Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children demonstrate that they feel safe and happy during their time at the nursery. They form close, secure attachments to the nurturing staff team. Staff provide an individualised approach to settling children into the nursery. This helps children to quickly feel comfortable in the environment. Children's behaviour is good. They treat their friends with kindness and respect, sharing and taking turns with the resources. Children engage in gardening projects and learn to plant, grow and harvest vegetables. Staff take the children on regular outings into the local community. For instance, they visit the nearby church and take part in nature-based activities in local woodland. This helps children develop a love of the natural world and feel part of the community.

Leaders and staff have high expectations for what they want children to learn to help prepare them for the next stage in their education. Staff focus on developing children's independence and embed opportunities for children to practise their skills throughout the day. For instance, children help to lay the table at mealtimes, take bedsheets off the sleep mats and blow their own noses. Children develop their physical skills and are confident and resilient learners. They demonstrate a willingness to take risks during their play, such as when they climb up the climbing wall and balance on logs.

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

- Leaders have high ambitions and a clear vision for their nursery. They provide a range of training and professional development opportunities to the staff team. This helps staff to develop their knowledge and skills. Staff value the support and training that they receive from their managers. They speak extremely positively of their roles within the setting.
- Children demonstrate a positive attitude to learning through high levels of engagement. They play imaginatively when they use large magnetic shapes to construct different objects, such as boats. Staff provide children with a range of sensory learning experiences. For example, they set up trays with mud, water and lentils for children to experiment with.
- Staff regularly share stories with children which helps them to develop a love of reading. Toddlers eagerly point at the pictures in the books and say single words. Staff use books to teach children about the topics that they are learning. For example, they read a story to children about a family not having much money to demonstrate why they are collecting donations for a local food bank. This helps children to learn about being kind to others.
- Staff know what they want children to learn through their planned learning experiences. They effectively sequence children's learning, building upon what they already know and can do. Staff provide stimulating activities that promote

children's natural curiosity. They are aware of children's interests and use this information to implement the curriculum. Staff confidently adapt their approach and show flexibility in the delivery of activities to support children's individual needs and wishes.

- The children benefit from healthy, balanced meals and snacks throughout the day. They learn skills such as pouring their own water and serving their food. However, the organisation of the routine before and during meal times leads to children sitting and waiting for prolonged periods of time. At times, this leads to some children losing focus and engagement.
- Staff form very strong partnerships with parents. They value the importance of building relationships with the families to work collaboratively to support the children's learning and development. Staff regularly share information with parents and invite them to events, such as sports day and the Christmas nativity. Parents praise the nursery staff team highly.
- Staff working with babies regularly sing songs and comment on their play, exposing them to lots of language. However, not all staff are confident in providing consistently high-quality interactions to promote children's communication and language skills. For example, on occasion, when children ask questions or share ideas with staff, they do not consistently respond to extend their language and thinking further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff ensure that the learning environment is safe, secure and well maintained. They deploy themselves effectively so that children are supervised at all times. Leaders ensure that staff have a good knowledge of safeguarding and child protection. As a result, staff know the signs that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. Staff are confident in how to raise a concern about a child, both internally and following the local safeguarding partnership procedures. They complete safeguarding training to refresh their knowledge and skills. Staff know the action to take should they have a concern about the conduct of a colleague or other adults in contact with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the organisation of meal time routines to ensure that children are not waiting for long periods of time
- support less experienced staff to develop their interactions with children to ensure that their communication and language development is promoted even further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY492525
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	10305451
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	60
Number of children on roll	72
Name of registered person	Inspired Generation Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP534832
Telephone number	02082243977
Date of previous inspection	21 February 2018

Information about this early years setting

Sapphires Nursery School registered in 2015 and is in Molesey, Surrey. It is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm, all year round, except on public bank holidays and a week at Christmas. The nursery employs 29 members of staff, of whom 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for children aged three years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Jade Orosz

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider 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 provider.
- The deputy manager, manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out joint observations of group activities with the deputy manager.
- The inspector reviewed feedback from parents to gather their views about the provision.

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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