

Inspection of Pathfield Nursery

123 Greyhound Lane, Streatham, London SW16 5NW

Inspection date: 19 December 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 receive a warm welcome from the friendly and kind staff. They settle quickly and show that they are happy and content at the nursery. Children form strong and secure relationships with the staff who care for them. The youngest children confidently hand toys to staff and sit on their laps to play together. Older children involve staff in their imaginary play. Staff support children to learn to be independent in managing their needs throughout the nursery. Staff involve children in tidying up and children enjoy taking responsibility for their resources.

The leader and the manager have effective knowledge and understanding of what they want children to learn and achieve. They create a stimulating curriculum through core books that incorporate children's interests and next steps. The activities keep children engaged and motivated to learn and children develop a love of books. For instance, children have tremendous fun discovering how to melt ice. The youngest children squeal with delight as they play peekaboo with coloured scarves.

Children demonstrate good behaviour. Staff have a consistent approach to managing behaviour. This helps children to know what is expected of them and helps them to feel secure and listened to. Children from a young age are taught the importance of sharing and taking turns.

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

- The manager and the leader ensure that children have access to a wide curriculum offering exciting learning opportunities. Children's developmental starting points are established through observations and discussions with parents. Through understanding children's interests and needs, the staff ensure that children's learning is planned for effectively and that it is well sequenced.
- All children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points. Staff ensure that they get to know families really well and work with outside agencies to set targets and help each child to thrive. The experienced special educational needs coordinator helps other staff to understand children's individual needs and how to support them.
- Staff teach children good communication, language and literacy skills. For example, staff read a wide range of books with children. They sing nursery rhymes and action songs, and children repeat repetitive phrases, which builds their vocabulary. Staff support children's language through daily targeted language sessions.
- Staff support children's creative development effectively. For instance, children enjoy experiencing different textures as they play with ice cubes, play dough and sticking arts and crafts. Babies enjoy exploring a range of textures and

materials, such as foam to make a snow scene.

- Children are provided with ample opportunities to be physically active and have daily access to the well-resourced garden. Children develop their physical skills well as they enjoy weekly music sessions and sports sessions with a coach. Staff support children to develop their small-muscle skills in preparation for early writing.
- Staff are good role models and children eagerly invite them to join their play. However, at times, the daily routine can disrupt children's play and learning. For example, the transition before snack and mealtimes can be disorganised and children can be sat waiting for too long. This limits the opportunities for children to extend and continue their learning.
- Staff support children to develop their understanding of mathematics well. They encourage children to use the language of size and weight, such as 'big', 'small', 'large' and 'heavy'. Staff incorporate counting into everyday activities. For example, children eagerly match numerals during a matching game and spontaneously count as they play.
- Staff have very strong partnerships with parents. Parents say that staff are genuinely interested in and care for children. Staff give parents regular updates on children's progress in flexible and effective ways. They provide good opportunities for parents to support their children's learning at home. For instance, staff share the core books and what the children will be learning so that parents can support this learning at home.
- The manager supports staff very well. She meets with each member of staff regularly to discuss their well-being and work performance. The leader and the manager evaluate all aspects of the nursery and set clear goals for improvement.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff have a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. They know when and where to refer a concern about a child in their care. The manager understands her role should an allegation be made against a staff member. Staff carry out daily checks of the premises to help identify and remove any potential hazards. Staff are deployed well and supervise children at all times. Robust recruitment procedures are in place. This includes carrying out background checks to help determine that staff are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to understand how to adapt the daily routine to enable children to continue to engage in purposeful play and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY421057
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	10308331
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	54
Name of registered person	Pathfield Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP530336
Telephone number	02086775747
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

Pathfield Nursery registered in 2011 and is based in Streatham, in the London Borough of Lambeth. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 6, one holds a qualification at level 5, and 10 hold qualifications at level 3. The nursery also employs a cook. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday, all year round, except for one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 8am to 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracey Murphy

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 leaders and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The inspector held discussions with the leader and the manager at appropriate times during the inspection and in a scheduled meeting.
- The inspector and the manager had a learning walk together across all areas of the nursery to understand how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed children's activities and staff teaching.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including staff's suitability to work with children.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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