

Inspection of Oak Hill Community Nursery

29 Wallbutton Road, London SE4 2NX

Inspection date: 26 March 2024

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 keen to attend the nursery and arrive happy. They enjoy spending time at this fun and nurturing nursery. Staff provide children with a warm welcome on arrival, which helps them to settle quickly and feel safe and secure. Staff speak to parents and check on their children's well-being. This helps staff to be attentive to children's needs. Staff encourage children's independence from an early age. Children take off their coats and shoes and wash their hands on arrival, which promotes good hygiene routines.

Children make choices and enjoy the range of resources available. Older children use water wheels and magnetic letters. Staff challenge their thinking when letters get stuck and encourage children to problem solve. Younger children show good concentration skills as they use shape sorters and make marks with chalk. Children fill containers with sand, which helps to extend their fine motor skills. They show excitement as they make sandcastles and knock them down.

Staff have high expectations for all children. They role model the behaviour they expect and provide gentle reminders when needed. Children understand the nursery's agreement and follow instructions. They share resources, take turns, use good manners and behave well. Children regularly receive praise and encouragement, which raises their self-esteem.

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

- Staff provide a broad and exciting curriculum which focuses on children's interests. They build on children's previous knowledge and skills with teaching moments. Staff sequence children's learning and prepare them for the next stage. They use observations and focus weeks to identify children's next steps in learning. Staff make regular assessments to ensure that all children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff promote children's communication and language skills effectively. They babble with babies and repeat words. Staff ask questions and give children time to think and answer. Staff introduce new vocabulary to help children to form and extend their sentences. Children enjoy singing and listening to stories, which increases their love of books and builds on their literacy knowledge.
- Partnerships with parents are a key strength of this nursery. Parents share their positive experiences of the high-quality care and education their children receive. Staff keep parents up to date on their children's learning. Parents acknowledge their children's good progress, particularly with their communication and independence. Staff share ideas with parents to continue their children's learning at home, which helps to promote continuity.
- Staff recruitment is a current challenge for the nursery. To maintain ratios,

managers need to use agency staff on a temporary basis, who work alongside permanent staff with the older children. The majority of staff engage well with children and use opportunities to extend children's learning. However, this is not consistent across all staff when children play, to maintain the high standards that the managers expect.

- Staff promote healthy lifestyles well. Children enjoy a range of nutritious cooked meals and healthy snacks. They use the inside and outside environments to practise and extend their physical skills. Babies enjoy climbing and crawl through tunnels. Older children increase their coordination as they use hoppers. Children learn about the importance of oral health and help to complete safety checks.
- The nursery has embedded a culture of diversity and inclusion, where staff welcome all children in the community. Staff teach children about other cultures and different festivals. Children learn to respect others and value their own uniqueness. The special educational needs coordinator supports children who need additional support and makes swift referrals to ensure that all children get the help they need.
- Children show a positive attitude to their learning. For example, younger children attempt to use scissors and show determination as they make snips in paper. Children count with staff as they set the table and thread cotton reels. However, staff do not consistently use mathematical language and concepts to extend children's skills further.
- The manager and deputy manager are proactive in raising standards. They support staff's well-being and provide regular supervision sessions. Staff are encouraged to access continued professional development to increase their knowledge and skills. Parents and staff contribute their views to help managers and staff evaluate their practice and make plans to address further improvements.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen consistency of staff's interactions to consistently extend children's learning during play activities
- embed children's understanding of mathematical language and concepts, such as shape, space and measures, to increase their knowledge further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339760
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	10312048
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	55
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Oak Hill Community Nursery
Registered person unique reference number	RP908324
Telephone number	0207 639 6047
Date of previous inspection	19 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

Oak Hill Community Nursery registered in 2006. The nursery is part of Hatcham Oak Children's Centre, which is situated in the London Borough of Lewisham. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for most of the year. The nursery receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 20 members of staff, 17 of whom work with children. Of these, 12 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Helen Craig

Inspection activities

- This is 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 deputy manager, manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery 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 deputy manager and manager carried out a joint observation with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to parents and children and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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