

Effra Early Years Centre

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100551
Local Authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	276326
Inspection date	25 April 2006
Reporting inspector	Vanessa Ward

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Nursery
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3-4
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Sue Whitaker Ann Hitchins
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	35 Effra Parade London SW2 1PL
Telephone number	02077338425
Fax number	02077336791

Age group	3-4
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Effra Early Years Centre has just moved into new purpose-built premises and is in the process of increasing its links with the community, providing care for children from birth to three and extending its provision for nursery children beyond the school day. Sixty children currently attend the nursery part-time and sixty full-time. More than half the school's population is drawn from families of African and Caribbean heritages. There are twenty four different languages represented amongst the children and more than a quarter are in the early stages of learning English. Just under half of the children are eligible for free school meals. A fifth have learning difficulties or disabilities.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

* Ensure the teaching and the gathering and recording of day-to-day assessment is of a consistently high standard in all groups.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are good because the staff plan work which meets the children's differing needs. The quality of teaching has improved since the previous inspection. The children are keen to learn because the staff stimulate their interest through exciting activities. For example, observing and touching snails attracted the interest of many children. The quality of relationships contributes significantly to the children's confidence and helps them to view themselves as successful learners. The children are clearly valued by all of the staff and this helps to boost their self-esteem. The children who speak little English quickly develop the confidence to take part in activities and attempt to communicate. Whilst teaching is good overall, there are some inconsistencies. For example, the staff generally encourage speaking well, but sometimes opportunities are missed to develop speaking by skillful questioning of the children. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are supported well and this contributes to their good progress.

The school has developed a very thorough and comprehensive system of assessment which takes careful account of individual needs. This is largely used to good effect. However, there is some variation in the rigour with which the staff collect and record assessment data.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is rich and stimulating and enables the children to achieve well because it is planned carefully to meet their individual needs. A wide range of activities is available to the children each day and these contribute to their enjoyment of learning. Activities in all areas of learning, indoors and outside, interest and engage the children. A strength of the curriculum is that personal independence and basic skills, in particular language development, are given significant focus and are promoted well in most activities. Planning clearly addresses the wide range of abilities. However, the school has identified the need to develop a policy relating to healthy eating to support and clarify its practice. Teaching about health and safety, combined with the promotion of good relationships, enhances the children's personal development. The curriculum is enriched by visits out of school that are closely linked to the children's targets for learning.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The school cares well for its children and promotes their health and safety effectively. Particular strengths are the school's links with parents and carers and with external specialists who visit the school. These links are very successful in promoting the well-being and development of all of the children. Parents appreciate all that the school does, in particular the individual care which their children receive. One parent wrote, 'The staff are both friendly and understanding. My child is flourishing.' Systems for child protection and risk assessment are effective. The needs of children with learning difficulties and disabilities are carefully considered and this helps to raise their self-esteem. Children who are learning English as an additional language are supported effectively and quickly grow in confidence. Some opportunities are provided for children to review how well they are doing, but children are not routinely made aware of their targets.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Children

We enjoyed our visit to your school very much. Thank you for helping us to find out about it. You really enjoy your school because there are many exciting things to do and learn. All the grown-ups look after you very well. This helps you to feel happy and safe in school. Your mums and dads think that your school is a good place to be and we agree with them.

The grown-ups give you really interesting things to do and they know what each of you needs to learn. This helps you to learn about lots of things. They are good at teaching you and checking how well you are learning. We have asked them to do this even better so that you can learn more.

You listen well when the grown-ups talk to you. You are good at sharing and taking turns. You behave especially well at lunchtimes and clear away your plates very sensibly. We hope you carry on enjoying your school and working hard.

Best Wishes

Vanessa Ward

Lead Inspector