

Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre

72 Endlesham Road, LONDON, SW12 8JL



Inspection date

20 January 2015

Previous inspection date

3 June 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is outstanding. As a result, children are extremely excited and motivated to learn because they play in a vibrant, stimulating play environment, which is rich in high quality resources. Children receive focused support and guidance from an enthusiastic staff team.
- The organisation of the environment, and the staff's ability in organising the daily routine, ensures children are becoming confident and have ample opportunities to dictate their own play.
- Children settle into the nursery school with ease because of the effective and robust settling-in procedures, which includes a home visit. This allows children, parents and key persons to bond quickly.
- The management team cultivates an atmosphere of strong team working where staff contribute ideas that promote collaborative working.
- Partnerships with internal and outside agencies are outstanding. Individualised support is provided for all children, particularly those with additional needs, ensuring they settle into the nursery and confidently transfer to school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- Further develop the use of children's home languages in the provision to enable all children to value their heritage and enjoy languages other than their own.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children at play and viewed the outdoor play areas and resources.
- The inspector spoke to staff to explore their knowledge of the nursery's policies and procedures, and their role as a key person.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including safeguarding and evidence of checks carried out on staff, and systems for self-evaluation.
- The inspector met with a sample of parents to gather their views about the service they and their child receive.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the head teacher.

Inspector

Patricia Edward

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Children are highly motivated, enthusiastic learners, enjoying an excellent balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Staff complete regular, robust observations of children as they play. This ensures teaching sharply focuses on individual children's interests and the next steps in their learning. This is particularly evident for children who require additional support in their learning. As a result, children make rapid progress in their development. Children develop extremely good communication, language and literacy skills. This is promoted by exceptionally skilled staff who use sign language at story and singing time to reinforce this area of development. Staff also use skilful questioning to promote children's listening and thinking skills. Children competently use computers, cameras and various programmable toys to support their understanding of technology. Overall, children are developing excellent skills in preparation for their future learning and move to school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children thrive in this vibrant and nurturing setting, and form secure, trusting relationships with caring staff. Children benefit from nutritious meals and snacks. Lunch time is a social occasion where staff encourage children to be independent. Children dish out their own meals, which promotes their independence and their understanding of portion control. The provision for outdoor play is a key strength. Children develop excellent physical skills. For example, they outstretch their arms to balance as they walk along beams constructed from wood and tyres. Staff work closely with parents to help children settle in easily. Children who speak English as an additional language progress well but have limited opportunities to hear and see their home languages to fully value their heritage. Highly effective staff deployment supports children to gain key skills, such as sharing and turn-taking.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The leadership and management team demonstrates an excellent understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Appropriate child protection procedures are understood by all staff, and recruitment and induction procedures are rigorous. There are effective performance management systems, which consist of team meetings, supervision, appraisals and ongoing training. As a result, staff are informed, committed and passionate about the children and their roles. Accurate self-evaluation takes into the account the views of staff, parents and children and is used effectively to promote ongoing improvement. Extremely effective partnerships with parents and other professional agencies have a significant impact on children's well-being. Parents are effectively involved and kept updated about their children's welfare and development; for example, through meetings and Early Years records.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY382475
Local authority	Wandsworth
Inspection number	829788
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	15
Name of provider	Balham Nursery School and Childrens Centre Governing Body
Date of previous inspection	3 June 2009
Telephone number	0208 673 4055

Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre originally opened in 1935 and registered 2008 as an Early Years provider. The provision is part of a maintained nursery school and children's centre. It operates from a converted house in Balham near the town centre. The nursery school opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.10pm, during school term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The premises has a ramp access, disabled toilet facilities and a lift. The two year old provision within the nursery school employs eight members of staff, which includes the head teacher and deputy head, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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