

Playhouse Montessori

1a Dunbar Avenue, London, SW16 4SB



Inspection date

23 March 2015

Previous inspection date

24 April 2014

	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff do not use their observations and assessments to monitor individual children's progress and plan their next steps. Therefore, children are not able to make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- The manager does not support staff's professional development effectively through monitoring of their practices and supervisions. Consequently, the quality of teaching is inconsistent because staff are unable to attend relevant training.
- The manager does not have a good understanding of the rules under which staff may be disqualified and as a result, staff checks do not include disqualification by association.
- Self-evaluation is not effective in identifying areas which require improvement. Consequently, not all legal requirements are met.

It has the following strengths

- The nursery has an established key person system and children form secure relationships, promoting their well-being and independence.
- Children, staff and parents celebrate festivals like Chinese New Year and Easter. Parents get involved in their children's learning which helps to promote children's understanding of the world.
- Staff have an understanding of the signs and symptoms they need to be alert to and what to do should they have any concerns.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve the use of observations and assessments to effectively plan for children's next steps and provide challenging and relevant learning experiences for every child
- ensure staff have an understanding of the rules under which they may be disqualified and regular checks are completed to verify staff's suitability to be working with children
- ensure that staff monitoring and supervision identifies training opportunities to raise the quality of teaching to further develop their skills.

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

- develop self-evaluation procedures to identify all strengths and weaknesses and use these to develop concise actions plans to bring about rapid improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector and deputy manager participated in a joint observation.
- The inspector observed children playing in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- A wide range of documents were considered, including safeguarding policies, children's records, improvement plans and questionnaires for parents.
- The inspector spoke to parents, taking into account their views of the nursery.
- The inspector reviewed observations, assessment and planning for children.

Inspector

Genevieve Mackenzie

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The quality of teaching is variable. Staff complete weekly planning. However, staff do not consistently include children's next steps in the weekly plan, which means that children do not always have appropriate challenge in their learning. In the baby and toddler room, staff plan for individual children every two months, which does not take into account children's changing learning and development needs. In addition, staff make observations and assessments of children's learning but sometimes forget to record these in the child's profile. Monitoring of staff practices has failed to identify this weakness. Therefore, children are not able to progress as rapidly as expected. Staff identify children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and work with external agencies to support them.

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

Children have close relationships with the staff, which promotes their well-being and independence. Staff complete daily risk assessments to keep children safe. Children, staff and parents celebrate an annual cultural day. Staff encourage parents to share their cultures, including food, dress and home language, promoting respect and tolerance for each other's differences. Children use the outdoor areas daily, which encourages their physical development. Meals are nutritious and varied, helping children to learn how to lead healthy lifestyles.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The provider has made some improvements since the last inspection. However, self-evaluation is not effective in identifying areas still requiring improvement. There is no procedure to ensure that staff are suitable to be working with children and not disqualified through association with someone they live with. The management are developing learning packs for parents so they are able to share children's learning with the staff. Parents receive daily feedback from staff, so they are aware of how their children have been during the day. The procedures for monitoring and supervising staff are not effective in identifying weaknesses in staff's practices and teaching skills. Therefore, relevant training is not tailored to what staff need to know to improve their professional development and outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339849
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	976515
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	23
Name of provider	Mrs Nasreen Hudda and Mr Mahmood Hudda Partnership
Date of previous inspection	24 April 2014
Telephone number	0208 7642564

Playhouse Montessori registered in 2006. It is located in Norbury, in the London Borough of Croydon. The nursery is open weekdays from 8am to 6pm for 52 weeks of the year. There are 12 members of staff, of whom four hold qualifications above level 4, including one member of staff with Early Years Professional Status. The nursery partly incorporates the Montessori educational philosophy and provides funded early education for children aged three and four years.

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