Little Elms Daycare
Beckenham 1
29 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4PR

**Inspection date** 19 June 2017
**Previous inspection date** 12 May 2014

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**Summary of key findings for parents**

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

- At times, staff do not deploy themselves effectively in a way that helps them to supervise children's learning well.
- Not all rooms have an effective key-person system to support children's care and learning needs, and to help ensure they fully share information with parents.
- The management team does not guide and support staff in all rooms to help them accurately monitor children's progress. Some children are not monitored well and do not meet the best possible progress in their learning.
- Management cannot demonstrate that the required progress checks for children agreed between two and three years are completed, and that a written summary is shared with all parents, as required.
- The management team does not effectively reflect on the settings practice and identify all areas for improvement.

**It has the following strengths**

- Overall, staff help children to develop good communication skills. For example, with babies, they repeat songs and respond to what very young children babble or gesture towards. With older children, staff explain activities well and ask children to express their opinions and thoughts. Children speak and listen well.
- Staff take children on outings, such as to the park, library or shops to buy ingredients for cooking activities. This helps children to learn about the local community.
What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

- ensure staff consistently deploy themselves effectively, to help meet children's learning and development needs  
  Due Date: 21/06/2017
- implement an effective key-person system for staff in all rooms to fully support children and strengthen partnerships with parents  
  Due Date: 01/08/2017
- provide staff in all rooms with sufficient guidance to assess and monitor children's progress and plan more accurately for their individual development  
  Due Date: 01/08/2017
- complete the progress check for children aged between two- and three-years old, and share a written summary with parents.  
  Due Date: 21/06/2017

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

- use self-evaluation effectively to clearly identify areas for development and improve outcomes for children.

**Inspection activities**

- The inspector observed staff and children playing in all areas of the nursery.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of documentation.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents.
- The inspector and manager participated in a joint observation.

**Inspector**

Genevieve Mackenzie
Inspection findings

**Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement**

Overall, the management team uses a variety of ways to help staff develop their practice further. For example, staff use visits to another nursery to review and implement a better way to organise resources so they are more accessible for children and promote independence. However, there are identified weaknesses in the 'Robin room', which caters for children aged two- and three-years-old. For example, the management team does not support staff based in this room well enough to help them to consistently meet children's learning needs. They do not implement an effective key-person system in this room as many of the permanent staff have left and recruitment of new staff has been slow. However, the management team and staff understand what to do if they need to report any child protection concerns to protect children's welfare. Safeguarding is effective.

**Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement**

Generally, the key-person system is effective and children are monitored well. Most staff implement good observations and assessment systems and know their children well. However, in the 'Robin room' staff planning for individual children is limited and staff do not share enough information with parents. In addition, some children do not have a progress check at age two and there is no evidence that staff share this progress check with parents, as required. Despite these weaknesses, overall, the quality of teaching is good. For example, staff describe emotions to help toddlers learn to express how they are feeling and promote their emotional well-being. Staff help children to learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, they talk about why children should drink water on a hot day. Staff encourage older children to listen to stories and skilfully question children to help them recall the story and think about what happens next.

**Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement**

Staff encourage children to exercise, such as participating in dance classes. This builds on their physical skills and promotes physical well-being. Staff in some rooms are not deployed well enough to best supervise children during their play and help them with their learning. There was an isolated incident where staff were briefly out of ratio, but overall, they are meeting ratio requirements. Staff promote children's confidence and praise children when they do something well.

**Outcomes for children require improvement**

Overall, most children make steady progress from their starting points and learn the skills they need to prepare them for their future move on to school. Older children describe the pictures they have drawn in great detail, showing their imaginative skills. Children show good social skills, hugging their friends goodbye when they leave the nursery.
Little Elms Day Care Nursery is one of eight nurseries owned and operated by the same private provider and it registered in 2009. The nursery is located in Beckenham, in the London Borough of Bromley. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, 7.30am until 6pm, all year round. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-years-old children. There are 57 staff, of whom one holds early years professional status and 47 hold relevant qualifications between level 2 and level 6.

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