

Playhouse Montessori

1a Dunbar Avenue, LONDON SW16 4SB



Inspection date	12 September 2018
Previous inspection date	18 February 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- The manager leads the staff team well. For example, she observes their practice and provides them with constructive feedback on how they can improve their teaching skills. Staff talk extremely positively about the quality of the coaching and mentoring they receive from their manager, and how this helps them to improve their practice.
- Staff use observations and assessments of children well to help the children achieve. Children make good progress from their starting points and are ready for the next stage in their learning, including their move to school.
- Children enjoy a wide range of activities, including those that help them to learn about their own identity, different people, communities and their cultures. For example, they learn about a range of festivals and events.
- The manager and her staff create a warm and welcoming environment for children and their families. Staff take time to explain simple rules to children; for example, using kind hands, sharing and taking turns. Children behave very well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not make the most of opportunities to extend children's independence and self-care skills, particularly during routines, such as handwashing.
- Staff do not consistently organise some small-group activities to help younger children fully engage and benefit more in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support children's independence and self-care skills fully and enhance their physical development even further
- focus more on the organisation of some small-group activities for younger children and help extend their learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out two joint observations with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector observed children's play and staff interactions with children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector viewed documentation and held meetings with the manager.

Inspector
Marvet Gayle

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff know the procedures to follow for reporting concerns with regards to children's welfare. There are appropriate policies and procedures, which are well implemented in the nursery. The manager has a good knowledge of the procedures to follow in the event of an allegation. She understands how to address complaints effectively. The manager successfully deploys staff to ensure children are well supervised and are constantly safe. For example, she consistently ensures adult-to-child ratios are effectively maintained. The manager is reflective and ambitious. She uses information gained from children's assessments well. She monitors individual and groups of children's progress and addresses gaps in their learning quickly. The manager evaluates the quality of staff practice and targets areas for improvement well. Continuous professional development plans for staff are carefully considered. The manager ensures they meet the individual needs of staff as well as the needs of the children in their care. Parents comment positively on the quality of support they receive from the nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are highly motivated. They interact very well with children and encourage their eagerness to learn. Babies take part in activities that excite them and arouse their curiosity. For example, they eagerly explore bubbles and sand. Staff use skilful questions to challenge older children's thinking and learning. For example, staff ask children what golden rules they would like to have in the nursery and why. Staff provide enjoyable opportunities both inside and within the well-developed garden to help support children's learning effectively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a warm, homely feel that helps to create a welcoming environment for children and their parents. Staff effectively help children with transitioning into the different rooms, and support them to settle quickly. They encourage children to be confident individuals. For example, children who recently moved rooms happily investigate their surroundings. Staff build strong bonds with the children and effectively nurture their emotional well-being. They help children learn about healthy lifestyles, such as providing opportunities for them to be active and enjoy healthy balanced meals. Staff help children to manage risks safely. For example, they help children learn how to use large equipment in the garden well.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are confident learners. They are happy and play well with their friends. Children are self-motivated, eager to learn and enjoy their time at the nursery. They listen and concentrate well as they play in the garden. Older children ask questions and are curious, while younger children explore freely. All children enjoy mark making with a range of resources. Older children learn to write their name and read simple words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339849
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	10062368
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Playhouse Montessori Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905783
Date of previous inspection	18 February 2016
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 7.45am to 6pm all year round. There are nine staff working with the children. The deputy manager holds early years professional status, and one member of staff holds a level 5 qualification. Four other staff, including the manager, hold a qualification at level 3, while three staff are unqualified. The nursery partly incorporates the Montessori educational philosophy into its practice. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

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