

Southfields Academy Nursery @ Aspire

Southfields Academy, 333 Merton Road, LONDON, SW18 5JU



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

16 April 2015

9 February 2012

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 manager has very good insight into staff training needs because she carries out regular in-depth staff appraisals and has a directory of a wide range of courses to meet the precise and individual needs of staff. For instance, staff attended a course on phonics, which led to innovative and fun ways to support children's early literacy skills.
- Staff have excellent partnerships with others to support children's learning. They work very closely with community health professionals to provide very good support to children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They have excellent links with parents and local schools to support children's learning and their move to school.
- Staff teach children excellent awareness of safety. They talk with them about how to use gardening tools safely. Staff ensure that children move safely around the building by making train queues and singing songs as they walk slowly, one behind the other.
- Children make excellent progress in this stimulating, well-organised nursery. Staff carry out high-quality, regular observations which they evaluate comprehensively to form precise next steps for children's learning. These are fully included in planning.
- The outdoor area is extremely well equipped and presents a wide variety of highly appropriate physical challenges to children to develop their physical skills.
- The manager has very sharp insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the nursery because she evaluates all aspects of practice regularly and comprehensively. She has identified highly accurate goals for improvement, such as continued development of partnerships with schools to enhance support to children who move to school.
- Children have exceptionally high levels of self-motivation and confidence. This is because staff highly appreciate and strongly value each child as an individual and build very strong, nurturing relationships with them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop displays in the environment further to enhance children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager of an adult-led group activity.
- The inspector observed interaction between staff and children in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation and held a discussion with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents, staff and children and took their views into consideration.

Inspector

Jennifer Beckles

Inspection findings

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

Staff planning covers all areas of learning exceptionally well. The quality of teaching is very good. Children have excellent early phonic knowledge because staff have a programme of fun activities and games to support their early literacy skills. Children confidently recognise their names and some are able to write their own names. Staff place emphasis on children's enjoyment of activities to promote different areas of learning. They support children's early mathematics skills exceptionally well. For example, they sing action songs which involve addition and subtraction and encourage children's full participation. Children have an excellent ability to recognise numbers; they park their numbered vehicles in matching numbered bays in the outdoor area and staff maximise daily opportunities to support their early mathematics skills. Although displays are of high quality and support children's learning, some are not at children's level. Children learn excellent skills for later use in school. Children's learning is enriched by specialist teachers, including for music and creative play.

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

Children feel very secure and settled because staff go through the daily routine with the children by using visual picture cards. Children have excellent independence skills. Staff organise the nursery in ways that enable children to select from a very wide range of resources independently. They use the bathroom independently, understanding and following very good personal care routines. Staff teach children to learn to take responsibility for small tasks, which supports their independence skills very well. Staff teach children excellent healthy habits by ensuring that they have fresh air and physical exercise each day. They learn about a well-balanced diet because snacks are nutritious and cater for special dietary needs.

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

The manager has an excellent understanding of regulatory requirements and places the highest priority on children's safety. Over half of the staff team are qualified in first aid to provide excellent ready access in case of accident or emergencies. Staff are thoroughly vetted by the manager to assess suitability for their roles. Staff have full knowledge of, and are regularly tested on, procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare. This provides excellent protection of children from harm. The manager has excellent ways to monitor the quality of staff practice, including regular comprehensive supervision, audits of files, staff meetings and scheduled observations of staff practice. This enables the manager to provide precise feedback and support to enhance the skills of a well-qualified staff team and improve outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY429774
Local authority	Wandsworth
Inspection number	823540
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	52
Name of provider	Southfields Community College
Date of previous inspection	9 February 2012
Telephone number	02088705093

Southfields Academy Nursery @ Aspire opened in 2011. The premises are a self-contained, purpose-built building in the London Borough of Wandsworth. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery is open from 7.30am until 6.30pm for 50 weeks of the year, closing for two weeks at Christmas. The nursery employs 20 staff, plus the manager, 17 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager holds a master's degree in early years. Six staff members hold Qualified Teacher Status, seven staff members hold degrees in early years, three staff members hold qualifications at level 3 and four staff members are unqualified. The nursery receives funding for free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

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