

The Little Tug Boat Day Nursery

3 Finlay Street, London, SW6 6HE



Inspection date

15 April 2015

Previous inspection date

26 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

- Children make excellent progress in this highly organised nursery. Staff make comprehensive plans which provide exceptional coverage of all areas of learning. Staff fully reflect children's interests which results in high levels of engagement in activities.
- Staff teach children excellent dietary habits. They provide healthy, appetising meals from organic food products which cater for special dietary needs. Staff help children to learn excellent ways to keep strong and well. They provide daily fresh air and an excellent range of physical challenges in the very well-equipped outdoor area.
- Staff have excellent understanding of how children learn. They provide a wide range of sensory activities to promote babies' learning. They support the development of toddlers' early literacy skills by reading stories and encourage children to fully interact with stories by using puppets and other story props.
- Staff have excellent partnerships with others involved in children's learning. They have strong links with community health professionals to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff have excellent, well-established partnerships with local schools to support children who move to school.
- Staff work highly effectively with parents by suggesting home activities to support children's learning. They keep them very well informed of their children's progress.
- The management team evaluates all aspects of the nursery thoroughly and has formed highly accurate key priorities for development. For instance, the team plans to continue to enhance the outdoor provision to provide best outcomes for children.
- All staff have received safeguarding training and have very secure knowledge of procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare.

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 tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector observed interaction between staff and children in the indoor and outdoor environments.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation and held a discussion with management.
- 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 carry out regular high-quality observations of children which they evaluate thoroughly to form precise next steps for learning. The quality of teaching is exceptional. Staff encourage children to make complex patterns using different shapes to support their early mathematics skills. As children played with toy sea creatures in the water tray, staff asked them which of the creatures had the ability to sting. They discussed at length the purposes of different features of a variety of sea creatures, which provided excellent support to children's understanding of the world. Children recognise, and some can write, their own names. They have excellent knowledge of letters and sounds and some children can read simple words. All children learn to take turns to speak and listen during group story and discussion times. They learn excellent skills for later use in school. Although there are some displays in the environment to enhance children's learning, these are not extensive.

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

Children are articulate and self-motivated learners. They are highly confident and secure because staff value each child as an individual and build strong, warm relationships with them. Staff encourage children to be strongly independent. They select their own plates and cups at mealtimes, serve themselves and pour their own drinks. They show excellent awareness of how to be safe. Staff ask children for ideas on how to be safe in the nursery and display their suggestions in the group room. For example, children suggested keeping fingernails short to avoid accidental scratching of others. Staff teach children very good personal care routines. They are well aware of the need for personal hygiene and use the bathroom independently to take care of their needs, such as tooth brushing after meals.

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

The management team has excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The team places very high priority on children's safety. The building is very secure with a closed circuit television entry system. All staff are vetted thoroughly as part of the recruitment process which provides excellent protection of children. The management team has exceptional monitoring arrangements to ensure best practice. The manager carries out annual appraisals and also makes comprehensive observations which are fed back to staff to improve practice. Staff are extremely well supported through regular supervision with the manager where planning and children's assessments are checked for quality. The manager has a very strong commitment to staff development. She identifies a very wide range of courses to enhance staff skills. For example, staff attended a course on supporting gifted children which led to more ways to extend children's early literacy skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY275325
Local authority	Hammersmith & Fulham
Inspection number	837367
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	Claire Hall & Sadie De Domenico Partnership
Date of previous inspection	26 June 2009
Telephone number	0207 731 6648

The Little Tug Boat Day Nursery opened in 1990. It is situated in a converted house in Fulham, in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The nursery is privately owned. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6.30pm, for 52 weeks of the year, with closure on public bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for free early years education places for children aged three and four years. There are eleven staff who work with the children, including the manager, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. Of these, one staff member holds Early Years Teacher Status; three staff hold degrees in Early Years; one staff member holds a qualification at level 4; six staff members hold qualifications at level 3; and one staff member holds a qualification at level 2.

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