

Inspection of The Little Tugboat Day Nursery Ltd

3 Finlay Street, London SW6 6HE

Inspection date: 8 February 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy in this community-focused, nurturing environment. Staff quickly form strong bonds with children and their parents. Staff use effective strategies to quickly settle children so that they feel safe and secure. The staff adopt a 'child-centred' approach to implementing the curriculum and are confident to talk about children's next steps. They work closely with parents to support them with ideas of how they can help at home. Children are happy and are keen to communicate their enjoyment while engaging in learning.

Children behave well. For example, they sit and take turns during circle times. They enjoy the 'Knock, knock on the box' game. They find the hidden objects inside the box that inspire them to sing a range of familiar songs. They join staff in singing action songs and fill in missing song words as staff pause for them to join in.

Staff carefully plan a range of activities for children to develop their fine motor skills. Staff model how to 'squeeze' the tweezers to collect coloured pom-poms. They support children to develop their skills in using scissors and modelling and manipulating clay. This helps to strengthen the small muscles in their hands, which supports their next steps in writing.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Children enjoy using their senses to learn about the world around them. For example, babies enjoy the sensory experience of using blue coloured water and cornflour as they pretend to explore the ocean. Older children smell fruit teabags and squeeze lemons and limes to make cups of tea for a tiger, after reading their favourite book. Staff support children well as they develop their imagination.
- Children enjoy the designated reading areas throughout the nursery to independently self-select books. Staff enjoy retelling familiar stories. Younger children enjoy watching puppets alongside the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. Older children are supported in developing their vocabulary as they sequence the story, 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. This supports children in developing a love for reading.
- Staff model their expectations for children's behaviour well. Staff remind children about making good choices and remind them of the 'Golden Nursery Rules' of listening carefully, sharing and taking turns. Staff adopt a positive approach to managing children's behaviour. For example, explaining why the story puppets need to be put away.
- Leaders are passionate about the development of staff. They offer regular coaching and mentoring opportunities to further develop staff in their practice. Most staff set challenging targets for children through their planned activities

and interactions. However, even more support is needed to help staff to challenge younger children. This would ensure that there is consistency in maintaining high expectations for all children throughout the nursery.

- Children learn the importance of healthy eating as part of a healthy lifestyle. For instance, they role play using a variety of real fruits and vegetables. Children enjoy mealtimes and staff sit with them making it a social experience. Staff talk to children about the foods that are good for them. They teach children to be thankful for the foods they have to eat and enjoy.
- Staff support children in developing independence. Children follow steps to wash and dry their own hands. Babies feed themselves with spoons and older children use serving spoons to help themselves to vegetables. Older children are given strategies to develop their independence in getting ready for outdoor play.
- Leaders and managers ensure that all children are ready for the next stages in their learning, including starting school. They work closely with the local schools to ensure smooth transitions. They work alongside external agencies to ensure that all children make expected progress, including children with English as an additional language (EAL). Staff report high levels of well-being and feel fully supported as they work towards achieving early years recognised qualifications.
- Parents are happy with the nursery. They receive regular daily communication, and they know their children's next steps. They are invited in to attend parent workshops covering a wide range of topics to support them further with their children's development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff carry out thorough, daily risk assessments to always ensure the safety of the nursery. There are clear procedures in place for recording and reporting on accidents and incidents. Staff recognise the signs of when a child may be at risk of abuse and their responsibility of reporting any concerns they might have. There are clear policies in place for the use of mobile phones in the nursery. There is a secure platform in place for the safe sharing of photographs with parents. All staff engage in safeguarding training to ensure their knowledge is up to date.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- further support staff with planning and target setting to ensure consistency in maintaining high expectations for younger children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY489210
Local authority	Hammersmith & Fulham
Inspection number	10265303
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	37
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	The Little Tugboat Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP534584
Telephone number	02077316648
Date of previous inspection	1 June 2017

Information about this early years setting

The Little Tugboat Day Nursery Ltd registered in 2015. It is located in a residential area in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The nursery operates from 8am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. The nursery employs 14 members of staff; of these, four hold qualified teacher status and seven hold a relevant early years qualification from level 2 to level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Penny Harman

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The manager and inspector conducted a learning walk together and discussed how the curriculum had been implemented and the impact that this had on children's learning.
- Children spoke to/communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to a range of staff and the leadership team about how the setting meets the needs of all learners, including those with EAL and special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector spoke to a range of staff about safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation on a member of staff.
- Leaders provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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