

Little Apples Day Nursery Ltd



18 Sanderstead Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 0PA

Inspection date	25 August 2016
Previous inspection date	20 November 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Observations and assessments are meticulous and highly effective. Staff use their excellent knowledge of the children to plan learning opportunities that are engaging and build upon their experiences.
- Children make consistently high rates of progress from their starting points. The staff's strong partnerships with parents and teachers from local schools help to support and prepare children extremely well for their move to school.
- Leadership is exceptionally strong. The management team and staff share a very strong vision and commitment to continuous improvement and professional development. They are highly effective at involving the children in changing and improving the environment, such as outdoors, to inspire their learning even more. Staff listen to children and respect their views.
- Staff are highly successful at supporting all children, including those who are learning English as an additional language. For example, they provide parents with excellent resources to support learning at home, such as communication and language, and enable all children to achieve as much as possible.
- The strong skills of the staff support children's emotional well-being very well. For example, children settle exceptionally well into the nursery and they talk enthusiastically about their day. They play and learn in an exceptionally well-resourced environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- create even more opportunities for children to think about what they are doing and develop their understanding of the world even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children and staff indoors and outdoors, and on an outing.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documentation, including children's learning records, self-evaluation, records of staff recruitment and suitability checks.

Inspector

Anneka Russell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. All staff have an excellent understanding of safeguarding and child protection. The management team ensures that staff are exceptionally vigilant. It implements highly effective recruitment procedures, support and training to ensure all staff are highly skilled. In particular, this has helped staff to complete sharply focused tracking of children's development to identify and very quickly address any gaps in their learning. Parents are fully involved in their children's learning and monitoring progression. The management team is developing this even further with 'home-learning kits' that focus on specific aspects of learning, for example, for parents and children to share. There is a highly successful drive and pursuit for excellence.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The management team has made excellent improvements. It ensures that all children, including the youngest, benefit from a very well-planned environment that is constantly adapted to meet their needs. Children enjoy exceptional opportunities to explore, such as forest school activities and outings. Staff are highly responsive to children's interests and topical events when planning activities that very precisely reflect their stage of development. For example, the 'Olympic theme' enabled children to try foods from different cultures and to learn from sports professionals, which highly motivated them. On outings, children use their knowledge to identify numbers on local buses and talk about the destinations of specific routes. Occasionally, staff miss some opportunities to extend children's understanding even further. All staff have high expectations for children and provide exciting challenges, such as to experiment with early writing.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff use their strong skills to model high expectations for behaviour. Children listen intently and are highly responsive to one another, such as praising each other's views. There is exceptional vigilance regarding children's safety and well-being. For example, older children know that babies use the outdoor area and they work cooperatively to tidy up and keep it safe. Highly consistent staff practice means that all children receive a high standard of care and gain an excellent understanding of health, hygiene and safety.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children develop excellent skills and independence in readiness for school. Older children confidently explain about staying safe, for example, if worried by an approaching dog or if they get lost. Younger children gain confidence to speak in a group, learn to listen and maintain attention. For example, they enthusiastically answered questions and followed instructions during a seaside activity. Older children count very skilfully and eagerly demonstrate early writing, such as labelling pictures about a visit from a police officer.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY442782
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	1059161
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	92
Name of registered person	Little Apples Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531410
Date of previous inspection	20 November 2012
Telephone number	02086866246

Little Apples Day Nursery registered in 2012. It operates in South Croydon, within the London Borough of Croydon. It is open all year round from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. The nursery also offers a drop-in creche service on Saturdays. There are 26 members of staff; of these, one holds a qualification at level 4, 15 hold qualifications at level 3, and two hold qualifications at level 2. The nursery receives funding to provide early education for children aged three and four years.

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