

Mini Stars Day Nursery

St. Margarets Church, Cricklade Avenue, London, SW2 3HH



Inspection date	30 April 2015
Previous inspection date	23 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
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		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are highly confident, strongly self-motivated and very keen learners. Staff provide a very firm foundation of trust and security because they build excellent relationships with children.
- Staff teach children about the importance of safety in excellent ways. They discuss garden safety with children who make suggestions on different things to check. They draw pictures of how to behave in safe ways around the nursery, such as walking along corridors to avoid accidents.
- Children make good progress in this well-organised nursery. Staff provide interesting activities which link well to children's interests.
- Monitoring of the nursery is effective. The management team has clear insight into the quality of staff practice because they directly observe staff to provide useful feedback. The management team carries out spot checks on staff planning and assessments to review the quality of work.
- The management team has a good understanding of the nursery's strengths and weaknesses. For example, they plan to continue to enhance the outdoor provision in the garden to meet children's needs.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although children have some opportunities to make marks, these are not often used by children.
- Opportunities for children to experience a wide variety of different textures and materials to enhance their creative skills are not fully developed.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills in play situations
- develop further ways for children to experience a range of different textures and materials to enhance their creative skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an adult-led group activity with the management team
- 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 management team.
- The inspector spoke to staff, parents 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 good

Staff meet children's individual needs well because they assess children regularly and use this information to plan carefully for children's next steps for learning. The quality of teaching is good. Staff teach children early mathematics skills by helping them to sort coloured bears into groups. They extend their learning by teaching them to recognise numbers. Staff support children's early literacy skills by enabling them to recognise their names on cards during morning group times. Children operate simple computer games and staff teach them the names of colours. Staff provide opportunities for babies to practise their hand to eye coordination skills, for example, as they place bricks on top of each other. Staff support children's language development by teaching the names of objects they play with and by singing favourite songs and rhymes. Children learn good skills for later use in school.

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

Staff teach children to be highly independent. During mealtimes, children help to set the table, serve themselves from communal food bowls and pour their own drinks. Staff teach children very good personal hygiene routines, such as tooth brushing and hand washing at lunch time. Staff help children to develop excellent dietary habits as the nursery cook provides very well-balanced, highly appetising meals which cater for special dietary needs. Staff provide a highly stimulating and well-equipped outdoor area to promote a wide variety of children's physical skills. Children climb across challenging frames, balance on scooters and negotiate space skilfully on wheeled toys. Staff organise group games to help children to learn physical coordination skills, such as throwing and catching balls.

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

The management team has a very secure knowledge of their role in relation to regulatory requirements and they prioritise children's safety. For instance, there is closed circuit television electronic entry to help prevent intruder access to the nursery. Children are protected further because staff have good knowledge of procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare. The management team carries out thorough checks on staff as part of the recruitment process, which adds to children's safety. They offer good levels of support to the staff team through regular supervision and appraisals, and identify relevant training. For instance, staff attended a course on meeting the needs of two-year-olds which led to more interesting activities during group times. Staff work well with others to support children's learning. They keep parents well informed of their children's progress and offer good ways for them to support children's learning. Staff work well with the local children's centre which provides a range of services to which they direct parents. They work effectively with local schools to support children's move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY277508
Local authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	833472
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	41
Name of provider	Mini Stars Ltd
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2011
Telephone number	020 8678 8600

Mini Stars Day Nursery opened in 2004 and operates from two rooms in an open-plan church hall located in Streatham, in the London Borough of Lambeth. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three, and four years. It is open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year, with one week's closure at Christmas and one week's closure in August. The nursery employs eight members of staff and a cook. Six staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The owner holds Early Years Professional Status and five members of staff hold qualifications at level 3.

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