

Peppermint Children's Centre

Franklin Way, Croydon, CR0 4YD



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

24 February 2015

6 March 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 works in close partnership with the local authority and has a clear vision of areas to improve. Consequently, they maintain exceptionally high standards in the quality of care they provide to children.
- Key persons have precise knowledge of the unique needs of individual children. Consequently, they plan precisely to enrich learning opportunities for all children. As a result, children of all abilities make very good progress.
- Children have excellent opportunities to exercise both inside and outside. This ensures that their physical development is continually promoted irrespective of weather conditions.
- Staff have established strong partnerships with parents. They provide a range of resource packs for children to take home and share with their parents. This serves as an excellent link between the children's learning at home and the pre-school environment.
- Most of the staff are bilingual. As a team, they provide excellent support to children who speak English as an additional language. However, staff recognise that the increased use of visual signs during group times would further enhance the support offered to children learning English as an additional language.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise children's emerging communication and language skills through developing the range of using visual signs during group times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities inside and outside.
- The inspector took account of the views of children, parents and staff.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documents, including suitability checks for staff.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.

Inspector

Geetha Ramesh

Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is exceptionally good. Children thrive in a very stimulating language environment. Staff provide children with interesting activities, using a range of nationally recognised strategies. Consequently, they offer excellent support all children, including those learning English as an additional language. The manager has established strong links with outside agencies to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. As a result, children of all abilities make very good progress. Staff skilfully extend children's play to maximise their learning. For example, they create 'parking bays' outside to enthuse children in purposeful play. Children write numbers and make marks to register how many hours they wish to park their vehicles. They count as they fill their vehicles with petrol. These activities promote children's mathematical development. Consequently, they are very well prepared for next stages in their learning.

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

Children feel emotionally secure as they form strong bonds with their key persons. Staff promote children's behaviour exceptionally well. For example, they skilfully use a sand timer to support children to take turns. As a result, children effectively learn to respect the needs of others. Staff make excellent use of spontaneous opportunities to improve children's learning. For example, they enthusiastically involve children in clearing shredded paper from the floor with a pan and brush. This promotes children's independence. Children learn to make healthy choices as staff provide them with nutritious snacks and lunch.

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

The leadership and management are outstanding. Induction processes are robust and thorough. All staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a sound understanding of procedures to follow if they are concerned about children's welfare. Self-evaluation processes are exceptionally good. The manager has thoroughly and precisely tracked the overall progress of different groups of children. Consequently, she is well informed of areas that need improvement and very efficiently leads staff in improving outcomes for all children. Staff supervision is highly robust and the manager ensures that the views of staff are taken into account while identifying training needs. As a result, the entire team rigorously contribute to planning and implementing improvements to the quality of the provision.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY306300
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	972376
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	44
Number of children on roll	38
Name of provider	Acorns2OaksLtd
Date of previous inspection	6 March 2014
Telephone number	0208 251 9481 02086868103

Peppermint Children's Centre registered in 2004. It is located close to Valley Park in the London Borough of Croydon. The centre comprises a nursery and a preschool which operate term time only. The nursery opens 8.00am to 6.00pm and the pre-school opens morning session 9.00am to 12 noon; Afternoon session 12.30pm - 3.30pm. The setting receives funding for free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs 10 staff, of whom one holds qualified teacher status, three hold level 6 qualifications and the remaining staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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