

Inspection of The Village Nursery

St. Marys Centre, Ladywell Road, London, Kent SE13 7UW

Inspection date: 26 July 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and relaxed at this family run nursery. They develop strong bonds with staff and confidently ask for help when they need it. When children are upset or tired, they seek out staff members for reassurance or a cuddle. Children have high levels of self-esteem and self-assurance. They respond positively to the warm encouragement and praise they receive from staff.

Children demonstrate good behaviour and follow the nursery routine well. They listen to staff and respond well to instructions, for example, when staff ask children to wait their turn or sit for lunch. Behaviour is well managed, and children learn right from wrong. Their independence is well supported from an early age, starting in the baby room, where the youngest children learn to use cutlery. By the time they reach pre-school, children can wipe their own noses and wash their hands by themselves.

Children are motivated to explore and investigate the stimulating learning environment. For example, children love to get involved with activities in the art room, where staff encourage them to create work they are proud of. Children thrive and make good progress in their learning and staff have high expectations of them.

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

- Children make excellent progress in their speech and language development. Staff listen to them with interest and respond with thoughtful questioning. Children have access to books and enjoy regular storytime sessions. This helps boost children's communication skills.
- Leaders have designed a curriculum which supports children to be creative and curious about the world. Both the indoor and outdoor play areas support children to become self-directed learners. More-experienced staff role model good teaching practice to less-experienced colleagues, including apprentices. This helps to drive improvement across the nursery.
- Staff prepare interesting activities and support children of all ages to engage with experiences. Children enjoy their learning and make good progress from their starting points. However, there are occasions when the oldest children do not always receive high levels of challenge, especially in the months prior to starting school, to take their learning even further.
- Babies thrive in the affectionate care of highly qualified staff. Staff arrange the baby room to allow the youngest learners to access activities and have fun. After a busy morning and a healthy lunch, babies settle easily to sleep. The routine and care they receive allows babies to form strong attachments and feel secure.
- Children have a lot of fun at nursery. They make good friends and play together

well. Staff help children when they play together. Children learn to share, take turns, to win and to lose. This helps children develop the social skills they need to form healthy relationships.

- Children behave well. They use polite language and rarely have to be prompted to use please and thank you. Staff explain the rules. For example, they limit numbers around a popular building activity, remind children not to run indoors and use 'inside voices'. Children know the rules and the routines which support their emotional security.
- Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals freshly prepared on site by the nursery cook. Staff know children's dietary requirements and ensure any preferences and allergies are catered for. Staff eat with children to role model good table manners and engage them in conversation to support social mealtimes.
- Leaders are open and honest about the management decisions they make. Staff state that they enjoy a pleasant and supportive work environment. They say they are reassured that they can discuss any concerns at supervision sessions. This supports a culture of openness, where children's needs are prioritised.
- Staff state high levels of job satisfaction and personal well-being. They say they enjoy their roles and get support to access any training they require. Apprentices are assigned a mentor to support them. This helps all staff gain the knowledge and understanding they need to promote children's best interests.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff access training which ensures their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding is secure. Staff are alert to a wide range of indicators of potential abuse. They know the procedure to follow if they are concerned about a child and where to report any concerns. In the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, leaders are clear on the procedures to follow and the appropriate agencies to contact. Leaders follow safer recruitment procedures and vetting of staff is rigorous. The premises are secure, and the indoor and outdoor environment is regularly risk assessed. Effective staff deployment supports children's safety and security.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide more challenging activities for the oldest pre-school children to extend their knowledge and understanding even further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2531397
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	10215120
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Village Nursery Ladywell Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	2531396
Telephone number	02086906766
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The Village Nursery registered in 1991 and was re-registered in 2019. It operates on the site of St Mary's church in the London Borough of Lewisham and is open from 8am to 6pm every weekday. The manager holds a level 3 childcare qualification. Of the nine other members of staff, two hold level 5 qualifications, three hold level 3 qualifications and three are at level 2. Two members of staff, including an apprentice, are unqualified. The nursery accepts early education funding for two- and three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Trina Lynskey

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 setting.
- The provider took the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the provider about how she organises her provision and her curriculum.
- The inspector observed an activity and evaluated this with the provider.
- During the inspection, the inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.

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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