

Inspection of Katharine Bruce Day Nursery

Queens Park Court, Ilbert Street, London W10 4QA

Inspection date: 26 June 2025

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Staff show passion for ensuring children become confident and independent learners. Children are highly motivated and show excitement, when engaging in all the activities on offer at the nursery. The experienced staff team know children well and ensure that they offer children high levels of challenge and quality interactions to support them to get the most from the planned activities on offer. The curriculum is language rich and supports children to develop sophisticated vocabulary. The links with real-life experiences allow children opportunities to understand and make sense of the world they live in.

Children show high levels of respect for each other and the staff team. The nursery motto is to 'Be kind, brave and show the hand of friendship to one another'. Children demonstrate they fully understand this as they play happily with, and alongside, their friends and staff. The effective use of storytelling, sensory activities and yoga allows children opportunities to talk about how they are feeling and explore ways to manage and regulate their emotions as needed. This supports children to feel safe and secure at nursery.

Staff fully encourage children to be expressive. Babies excitedly enjoy clapping and waving their hands as they move to the rhythm of the music during song time. Staff enthusiastically play musical instruments and sing familiar songs to children. Children enjoy moving coloured scarves up and down and from side to side as they join in with the actions to the songs. They show high levels of interest and engagement and are given huge amounts of praise from staff.

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

- Staff ensure that children are immersed in language as they play. Younger children enjoy learning the new words of 'sweet' and 'sour' as they squeeze lemons and limes to make flavoured water. Older children are supported to learn the new words of 'lava' and 'magma' and 'active' and 'dormant' as they engage in exciting experiments to learn about volcanoes. Staff support them exceptionally well and ensure that new language learned is regularly reviewed and revisited to embed this new vocabulary for the children.
- Children enjoy learning about where their food comes from and the importance of healthy eating as part of a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy growing tomatoes, carrots and rosemary in their greenhouse. The nursery chef then supports children to become her 'mini chefs'. They use their home-grown produce to create 'yummy' dishes to share with their friends and family. Children have opportunities to taste a variety of different foods from around the world and staff use mealtimes to talk to children about the importance of eating a variety of different fruits and vegetables.

- Children show huge amounts of enthusiasm as they play and learn. Staff offer them motivation to keep on trying when they encounter difficulties. Children enjoy the success they feel as they are guided expertly by staff to persevere to make their 'monster truck' from large wooden blocks. Staff instill confidence in children so they can believe in their own abilities.
- Children are supported exceptionally well as they develop their small-muscle skills in preparation for writing. Babies enjoy squeezing, tearing and rolling out clay. Older children enjoy using paintbrushes to 'splatter paint'. Children of all ages enjoy stirring and mixing ingredients together in the mud kitchen to create 'snail sandwiches and pine cone pizzas' from recipe cards.
- Parents love the 'open door' policy at nursery. They say that staff are incredibly nurturing and that their children are greeted each day with enthusiasm. They know what their children are learning and can see the progress they have made since starting at nursery, and particularly how they have grown in confidence. They feel their children are well prepared for their next stages in learning, including starting school.
- Leaders ensure that staff are offered a programme of professional development that is personalised to them. Staff are given opportunities to gain a range of recognised early years qualifications and are set challenging targets to achieve by leaders. Leaders value partnership working and have built strong links with their local community, the local authority and parents. Leaders ensure that all children, including children from disadvantaged backgrounds and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, are given access to a curriculum that supports them to thrive and achieve to the best of their abilities.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY305975
Local authority	Westminster
Inspection number	10398066
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	The London Early Years Foundation
Registered person unique reference number	RP901332
Telephone number	020 7641 5835
Date of previous inspection	2 October 2019

Information about this early years setting

Katharine Bruce Day Nursery established in 1930 and re-registered in 2005. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm and operates for 51 weeks in the year. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. There are 12 members of staff, of whom 10 hold appropriate qualifications, ranging from levels 2 to 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Penny Harman

Inspection activities

- The manager and inspector completed a learning walk to discuss what staff want children to learn.
- Staff and children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out general observations of children and staff interacting.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a range of parents to seek their views on the nursery.
- The inspector engaged in a leadership meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documents.
- The inspector tracked the experience of a range of children 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025