

Monkey Puzzle Day Nurseries

Park House, 16 High Road, LONDON, N2 9PJ



Inspection date	5 June 2015
Previous inspection date	24 June 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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		Good	2
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

- The quality of teaching is good and, as a result, children make effective progress in their learning and development.
- The indoor and outdoor learning environments are well planned overall to provide children with a broad range of challenging learning experiences across the seven areas of learning.
- Staff have a secure understanding of child development and the needs of individual children. They understand how to use observation and assessment to accurately identify children's individual learning needs, tailoring experiences to meet these needs well.
- The leaders and managers have high expectations of their staff team and the staff demonstrate a real commitment and desire to achieving a high-quality learning environment where outcomes are good for all children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, while engaged in discussions with children, staff do not always give children enough time to respond to questions to extend their critical thinking skills and enhance their learning experiences.
- Although babies have some sensory play experiences, they do not always have access to many natural and everyday resources to fully encourage their sensory exploration.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue developing staff's questioning skills to give children sufficient time and space to consolidate their thoughts and share their ideas
- provide babies with more natural and everyday play resources to enable them to explore and develop their sensory skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between children and staff in all playrooms.
- The inspector spoke to parents and staff during the inspection.
- The inspector engaged in discussions with the management team.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's and staff's records and some written policies and procedures.
- The inspector completed some joint observations with the manager and deputy manager.

Inspector

Samantha Smith

Inspection findings

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

Overall, the quality of teaching is good and staff promote children's learning effectively across the seven areas of learning. Staff sensitively observe children to highlight and document their achievements. They closely monitor their progress, taking swift action to address any areas of concern. As a result, all children are well supported to make good progress. Babies enjoy some sensory experiences through the exploration of sand, water and rice. As children grow, they begin to play an active role in their learning. This helps them to start to become independent learners and take full charge of their play. Older children enjoy an environment that is rich in print and staff provide a number of opportunities to develop children's early writing skills in different areas of their play.

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

Children are happy, settled and well cared for. Staff promote children's health and physical needs well as they pay close attention to their individual care requirements and personal daily routines. Staff implement an effective key-person system that helps children to form close and caring attachments with staff as they learn to separate from their parents. Partnerships with parents are strong and they contribute positively towards continuity in children's care and learning. As a result, children feel safe and secure. Staff have developed effective behaviour management strategies. For example, they have introduced a 'kindness tree' and 'well done bracelets' to help children learn to behave responsibly. Older children are well prepared for school. They develop early writing skills and recognition of letters through their everyday play experiences. The setting works well with schools to support children throughout their move to the next stage of their learning.

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

The management team has a comprehensive understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Together with the staff team, they demonstrate a clear commitment towards providing a high-quality provision where children are effectively safeguarded and enjoy good learning opportunities. There are effective arrangements for recruiting and vetting staff, and there are regular supervisions, appraisals and monitoring of practice. This enables managers to accurately monitor staff performance and identify and target training needs, as well as identify and respond to any gaps in provision. Through effective evaluation, the management team and staff have successfully addressed previous weaknesses and incisively targeted areas for further improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY434830
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	982961
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	82
Number of children on roll	110
Name of provider	North London Day Nurseries Limited
Date of previous inspection	24 June 2014
Telephone number	02079981725

Monkey Puzzle Nursery is part of a franchise and registered in 2011. It operates from the ground floor of a converted building in East Finchley, in the London Borough of Barnet. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year. There are 27 members of staff, of whom 20 hold relevant early years qualifications. Four members of staff hold a relevant degree, one of whom holds a Qualified Teacher Status and Early Years Professional Status, two of whom hold Early Years Teacher Status whilst another holds a level 5 Early Years qualification.

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