

Newstead Children's Centre



Newstead Childrens Centre, Fallows Close, East Finchley, London, N2 8LG

Inspection date

24 September 2015

Previous inspection date

14 May 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager promotes ongoing training opportunities for staff. This means that staff improve experiences for children, such as through dance and movement to extend children's physical skills.
- Staff meet children's emotional needs well. They develop children's independence and provide them with confidence to try new activities. This prepares them well for their eventual move to school.
- Children's programme for learning is effective and leaders closely monitor its delivery; this ensures consistency in teaching and learning. Staff obtain detailed information from parents to ensure children make good progress from their starting points on entry.
- Observation and assessment methods are robust; staff use the information they gain to inform their planning for children's next steps, based on their abilities and interests.
- Staff take necessary steps to protect children and keep them safe. Leaders ensure all staff regularly update their safeguarding training, so they are aware of the procedures to follow if they have any welfare concerns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always use all opportunities fully throughout the daily routines to increase children's early numeracy skills.
- Staff do not always provide sufficient time for younger children to practise making marks to extend further their skills in early literacy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase children's understanding of mathematical concepts, such as size and measure, to strengthen their skills further
- extend opportunities for children to practise making marks throughout the daily routine to improve their early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked to children and staff, and observed them in all the rooms and the outdoor area.
- The inspector held a long discussion with the manager.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the deputy manager.
- The inspector sampled children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff and a range of other documentation, including the setting's policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Anahita Aderianwalla

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders provide effective staff supervision to monitor ongoing performance and improve teaching practice. The whole staff team has a clear vision for the nursery's development. The manager identifies what staff do well and areas that need to improve. Improvements to the overall quality of the nursery are continuous and reflect the opinions of staff, children and parents. This helps leaders to maintain good standards of quality teaching and care. Safeguarding is effective. Staff are secure in their knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, and implement these to a good standard to protect and keep children safe from harm. Partnerships with parents are strong and staff regularly inform parents of their children's progress. Partnerships with other agencies are secure; this enables children to benefit from a shared approach to their care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Skilled staff fully understand how children learn through play. They provide a wide range of resources and activities to promote all areas of children's learning. Children have good opportunities within play and planned activities to explore, investigate and use resources in their own way. For example, children are fascinated by the minibeasts they find, becoming engrossed as they discuss how they move and leave a sticky trail. Staff interact well with children, and provide explanations to support their understanding and speaking. For example, as children make sandwiches, staff introduce new words which support their communication and language skills. Parents express positive comments about the progress that children make.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff implement effective settling-in procedures to help children settle and provide them with strong emotional support. Staff foster children's sense of responsibility and cooperation, for example, by encouraging them to help tidy away resources. As a result, children work well together, such as when picking up wooden blocks. Children learn about their personal care and quickly develop a sense of independence, particularly through daily routines, where they learn to keep safe and focus on their health and well-being. Staff plan daily routines to help children build social skills and confidence. For example, children learn to hang up their own coats and prepare sandwiches for snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress because staff promote their learning and development successfully. Children are enthusiastic learners who are keen to engage in a range of exciting activities. Older children develop an understanding of sorting and counting objects, and enjoy talking about their favourite characters in stories they have read. Consequently, children show they are ready for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	154613
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	826028
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	48
Name of provider	London Borough of Barnet
Date of previous inspection	14 May 2012
Telephone number	0208 359 3460

Newstead Children's Centre registered in 1995. It is located in East Finchley, in the London Borough of Barnet, and is run by the local authority. It is open from 8am to 6pm, for approximately 48 weeks a year. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The centre offers free early education for children aged two, three and four years. Staff support a number of children with special educational needs and those who are learning English as an additional language. There are six members of staff working with the children. All have relevant qualifications.

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