

Inspection date

9 October 2015

Previous inspection date

13 February 2012

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff are very well qualified and have an exemplary knowledge of how children learn. As a result, they provide an exceptional range of fun and stimulating activities and an inspirational environment for babies and toddlers.
- Teaching is excellent throughout the nursery. Staff know how and when to intervene as children play to extend their learning experiences. This contributes to children developing an enthusiasm for learning from an early age.
- Staff are highly skilled and knowledgeable. They foster excellent relationships with each child, providing comfort and individual attention throughout the day. Children separating from parents for the first time are well supported; they are soon eager to investigate their new environment.
- The provider uses robust safeguarding systems to protect children. All staff have a very good understanding of the signs and symptoms which indicate a child is at risk and know the procedures to follow to report any concerns.
- The provider is committed to driving improvement. She effectively uses self-evaluation to quickly identify areas for development and takes prompt action. This helps to maintain the excellent quality of teaching and outcomes for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use mathematical language more extensively to fully enhance children's knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the provider.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the provider.
- The inspector observed children's activities and routines and looked at children's records with their key person.
- The inspector held a leadership and management meeting with the provider and sampled required documentation.

Inspector

Carolina Montesinos

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider and staff are committed to maintaining excellence and work closely to ensure children benefit from the best teaching and care practice. Staff have a thirst for knowledge and appreciate the ways they are able to improve their knowledge and skills. For example, after receiving training, they successfully implement high quality forest school play sessions. Excellent partnerships with outside professionals are embedded in practice to ensure children receive the support they need in a timely manner, when necessary. Safeguarding is effective. Recruitment procedures are robust in checking staff's ongoing suitability. Staff place high priority on children's safety and well-being. They are vigilant and conduct rigorous checks of the environment to ensure children are safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an extremely good understanding of how to make activities fun and purposeful, which helps to motivate, engage and interest children in their learning. Children respond enthusiastically with gestures, words and sign language. They are pleased to join in with routines and activities from an early age. For example, babies beam and clap their hands showing their delight as staff sing their favourite songs. This successfully supports young children to develop excellent concentration and communication skills. The environment is carefully planned, based on the staff's expert understanding of children's interests. For example, toddlers develop their small muscles and creative thinking through 'cooking' with corn flour in the home corner. Staff promote successful partnerships with parents and have a detailed understanding of children's learning. This enables them to precisely plan next steps for each child. Very occasionally, staff do not fully extend children's understanding of some mathematical concepts to enhance their learning experiences.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children flourish in the homely environment. The successful key-person system and the highly effective deployment of staff enable children to form secure emotional attachments right from the start. Children enjoy thoughtfully planned, balanced and nutritious meals. Staff extend children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle as they follow the forest school programme in the nursery and organise regular visits to local parks. Staff are excellent role models and promote equality. As a result, toddlers and babies are confident, behave extremely well for their age and feel secure. All children are able to concentrate well and find plenty of opportunities to learn and play in this excellently resourced nursery.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children learn to be independent according to their stages of development and play happily with other children. They are making excellent and rapid progress from their starting points and develop key skills for future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433791
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	823931
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	27
Name of provider	University College London
Date of previous inspection	13 February 2012
Telephone number	0207 679 7461

UCL Nursery registered in 2011 and is located in the Bloomsbury area in the London Borough of Camden. It operates each weekday from 8.30am to 5.20pm throughout the year. The nursery employs 10 staff, including the provider. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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Piccadilly Gate
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