

Inspection date	13 November 2015
Previous inspection date	27 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

- The inspirational leadership team is dedicated to providing extremely high quality care and education for children. They involve parents and staff in the process of self-evaluation to ensure that they maintain and improve the already excellent standards.
- Kind and caring staff establish exceptionally close relationships with children. Children feel safe and secure and are ready to learn.
- Teaching is outstanding. Enthusiastic and committed staff have a very good understanding of how children learn and develop. They plan interesting and challenging activities based around children's interests.
- Children make rapid progress relative to their starting points. All children are ready for the next stage in their learning, including for starting school.
- Children really enjoy their time in the excellent, well-resourced learning environment. Children are engaged, motivated and independent learners. They are able to confidently follow their own interests and ideas, and make choices about their own play.
- Parents praise staff and report that they are exceedingly happy with the way that their children are cared for and with the progress that they make.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to involve children when planning activities and consider how to integrate their views more fully into the self-evaluation process.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and during outdoor play.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection, and held a meeting with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, which included staff and children's records, and the setting's policies and procedures.

Inspector

Vanessa Linehan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The leadership and management of the setting are inspirational. Highly robust recruitment methods help to ensure that all staff are suitable. The manager makes excellent use of supervision and appraisal systems to monitor and enhance staff practice. She works with her staff to identify further opportunities for training and development. Staff make excellent use of what they learn to support children's learning and development. Safeguarding is effective. Staff know what action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare and fully understand their own role and responsibility in this regard. Staff offer children some encouragement to become involved in planning activities but do not generally involve them very much in the self-evaluation process.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know the children exceptionally well. They ask parents for lots of information about their child before they start at the nursery. Staff develop a extremely detailed picture of children's stage of development and interests during their first weeks. They use ongoing observations and accurate assessments to monitor children's progress. Any gaps in their learning are quickly identified and addressed. Staff have developed highly engaging strategies to involve parents. For example, they put together home learning bags containing activities that parents can use to support their children at home. Parents are invited to regular meetings and reviews about their children's progress. The excellent quality of teaching, and strong partnerships, help children to make the best possible progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff are extraordinarily effective in encouraging children to share, and to be polite and kind to one another. Children develop wonderfully high levels of self-esteem through staff's praise and encouragement. Staff support children to become independent. For example, children learn to wash their own hands and help themselves to food and drink at lunchtime. Children are given healthy snacks and enjoy physical exercise, inside and outside in the fresh air. Staff successfully prepare children for changes in their lives. For example, teachers from local schools are invited to meet children in the nursery in order to support their move to primary school.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make outstanding progress. Those learning English as an additional language are encouraged to use their home language in the nursery, which helps to support their language development. Children who have special educational needs are supported exceptionally well. Staff work closely with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists, to ensure that any gaps in children's learning are addressed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433346
Local authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	823882
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	71
Name of provider	The London Early Years Foundation
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2012
Telephone number	02078348679

Noah's Ark registered in 2011. It is based in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The setting is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 22 members of staff including the manager. All staff hold appropriate childcare qualifications from level 2 to level 6.

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