

Learning Tree Montessori Nursery School

309 Preston Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 0QQ



Inspection date

3 December 2015

Previous inspection date

2 July 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 provider/manager and staff team have made significant improvements since the last inspection. They work closely with parents, children and the local authority to identify priorities for further improvements, which they act upon swiftly.
- The provider/manager provides strong support to her staff team. She uses her knowledge and skills to monitor their performance and guide their professional development so that their skills and knowledge are kept up to date.
- Children behave very well. They are happy and develop good levels of confidence and self-control, according to their age and abilities.
- Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Staff know the children very well and plan a range of learning experiences to meet their individual needs. For example, they encourage a lot of singing to extend children's vocabulary and understanding.
- Staff regularly check the progress of their key children, and the provider/manager carefully monitors this. All children, including those who are learning English as an additional language and those who have additional needs, progress well from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, children do not have enough opportunities to express themselves and use their imagination to enhance their creative development.
- Staff do not always make the best of all opportunities to engage parents in promoting children's healthy eating, as part of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to express themselves creatively to enhance their learning experiences
- increase opportunities to communicate with parents about promoting their children's healthy eating.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the play rooms and in the garden.
- The inspector sampled children's observations, planning, assessments and registration records.
- The inspector held conversations with the staff, parents and the children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications, and the provider's policies, procedures and self-evaluation records.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the provider/manager.

Inspector

Nataliia Moroz

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure understanding of safeguarding issues and how to protect children. The management team implements effective employment systems to ensure children's safety. The provider/manager is very active and works alongside her staff. She has a clear view of staff weaknesses and takes immediate action to tackle these effectively. The provider/manager is professional and her documentation is maintained to a high standard. She has recently implemented new planning systems, which are very effective and help identify children's priorities and progress. Partnerships with parents are strong. They have regular parents' meetings to share their children's achievements and discuss their next steps in learning. This helps to maintain continuous support to meet children's individual learning needs. Parents speak very highly of the staff and are happy with the progress their children make.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of how children learn. They provide a good range of activities, so children are motivated to explore and eager to learn. Staff promote children's learning of mathematics very well, skilfully using number language as children play. Children are eager to begin their number recognition and counting skills. For example, staff ask children how many toys they have using concepts such as 'more' and 'add'. All children, including those who are learning English as an additional language, develop good communication and language skills. Staff use effective strategies to narrow language gaps quickly and ensure they speak clearly. For example, they devise a special group activity to encourage children to name an array of objects to extend their individual vocabulary. The provider/manager has built good relationships with local schools, inviting them to visit children prior to their move to reassure them about the changes ahead.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children and their families are warmly welcomed to this friendly nursery school. The key-person system is effective. Children demonstrate they feel safe and secure. They settle well and confidently interact with each other and all adults. Children develop high levels of self-esteem, receiving praise for their efforts. Children enjoy taking responsibility in their daily routines and activities. For example, they eagerly help staff to serve at lunchtime and put resources away when they have finished with them. The provider/manager and staff have a good understanding of supporting children's welfare effectively, implementing strong working practices to promote children's health, safety and well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make at least typical progress in their learning, particularly in their mathematical development. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	137819
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	1021861
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	42
Name of provider	Learning Tree Ltd
Date of previous inspection	2 July 2015
Telephone number	02089 049413

Learning Tree Montessori School registered in 1994. It operates from a converted house in Harrow, in the London Borough of Brent. The nursery school follows the Montessori ethos. The nursery school opens each weekday from 8am to 4pm, for 44 weeks of the year. The nursery school is accredited to receive funding for children aged three and four years. The provider employs six members of staff, of whom four hold appropriate childcare qualifications.

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