

# Kinders Mill Day Nursery

117 Grove Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0AA



## Inspection date

21 December 2015

Previous inspection date

19 March 2012

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 quality of teaching is outstanding. Staff have a superb understanding of how children learn and develop. They provide highly stimulating activities that are extremely focused on the individual needs and interests of each child. Young children experiment, mixing textures, such as large ice blocks with rice. Older children learn to speak in French and solve complex mathematical problems.
- The leadership and management are inspirational. They use self-evaluation extremely well to continually reflect on the service they provide, identify improvements and successfully driving them forward. This results in a committed workforce that continually raises the quality of the service they provide in ways that have the maximum positive impact for children.
- Staff form excellent partnerships with parents. They highly value parents as their children's first educators and involve them in every aspect of their children's learning. Parents are extremely well informed, support their children's learning at home and take an active role in their children's development. Parents describe the staff as brilliant.
- The strong skills of all key persons help children to form very warm and caring bonds with them. Children are very happy and demonstrate that they feel exceptionally secure and confident in their care from a very early stage. The successful arrangement of mixed age groups in each room replicates natural social situations outside of nursery and older children act as excellent role models.
- Children show a superb understanding about leading healthy lifestyles. Young children fall asleep and wake contently. This helps them to be emotionally and physically ready to thrive in their learning. Children enjoy a wide range of nutritious freshly prepared meals and snacks made from organic ingredients.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to explore further innovative ways to overcome any barriers in communication with other early years settings that children attend to build even more-successful partnerships.

### Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching in the three rooms in the main nursery building and the separate pre-school building. They also observed activities outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors talked to children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspectors completed a joint observation with one of the deputy managers.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the manager and area manager. They looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspectors spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and also took account of their views through written documentation.

### Inspector

Lorraine Pike / Maura Pigram

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The dynamic leadership and management team is highly effective in supporting the well-qualified team of staff to run the nursery efficiently. They value and use the individual and exceptional skills of staff successfully. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a robust knowledge of the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The manager's sharp focus on monitoring children's progress and different groups of children identifies gaps as soon as they emerge. Regular supervision meetings and excellent training opportunities ensure staff are consistently up to date with their knowledge and skills. They continue to share best practice at regular staff meetings and on the nursery's online forum. This supports them to extend children's learning experiences even further. Partnerships with a majority of other settings that children attend are exceptional. Staff plan to explore further innovative ways to replicate this partnership with all settings.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have high expectations of themselves and for what children can achieve. They ensure that their teaching and a range of high-quality toys and activities, provide excellent challenge. Rich and varied opportunities help children gain an excellent understanding of differences between themselves and others. Young children enjoy sharing photographs of themselves and their family. Older children talk in-depth about people with disabilities and experience painting pictures, holding the brush in their mouth or between their toes. Staff promote children's communication and language development superbly. They model excellent listening skills and skilfully build on children's vocabulary. Children swiftly learn the meaning of new words in context to their play. They develop outstanding literacy skills. Older children write their own name and have fun learning to link letters and sounds. Younger children enjoy using their hands to make marks in sand and dough.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are excited as they arrive and are immediately ready to learn in the highly stimulating indoor and outdoor areas. They behave exceptionally well and demonstrate kind and secure relationships with each other. Children spontaneously use excellent manners and confidently engage in social interactions with ease. Children are highly independent. Young children select their own toys and activities from a superb range. Older children set the table for lunch and clear away themselves, without being asked. Staff place the utmost importance on teaching children an excellent hygiene routine. Children have superb opportunities to take part in physical exercise. The outdoor coordinator meticulously plans exciting activities for children in the inspiring onsite indoor soft play area and outdoors. A weekly swimming and yoga session for older children helps them to develop new skills and stamina.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent levels of progress in their learning given their starting points. They are highly motivated and persevere at challenging tasks. Children rapidly develop the key skills they need in readiness for school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY361997
<b>Local authority</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	849631
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Day care type</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	95
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	156
<b>Name of provider</b>	Magic Nurseries A Ltd
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	19 March 2012
<b>Telephone number</b>	01462 642 666

Kinders Mill Day Nursery was registered in 2007 and is privately owned. The nursery employs 38 members of childcare staff. Of these, 29 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above, including two members of staff with Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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