

Crickets Montessori Nursery School

51a Chatsworth Road, LONDON, NW2 4BL



Inspection date

14 March 2016

Previous inspection date

19 April 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	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

- Children actively take part in an exceptional broad range of rich, varied and imaginative educational activities that promote children's learning extremely well. All children demonstrate high levels of independence and help themselves to the high-quality resources. They reach a level of development typical for their age, with many children exceeding expectations.
- The quality of teaching is outstanding. The highly skilled staff team has an excellent understanding of their role in promoting children's learning and development. They demonstrate a genuine interest and a passion for their work.
- Staff have an excellent knowledge of how children learn through play. They use their observations and assessments to plan sharply focused next steps in learning. This helps children to reach their full potential, particularly in their language and communication skills.
- Children behave extremely well. They quickly learn to negotiate and play well with others. Throughout the nursery, children are offered exceptionally warm and affectionate care. This enables them to form very secure emotional attachments with the very attentive staff.
- Staff support children who speak English as an additional language very well. They expertly use a varied range of teaching skills to help children make connections in relation to their play and learning.
- Partnerships with parents, others agencies and providers are extremely strong. Continuity of care and support for children's individual needs is exemplary. Parents provide excellent feedback on the outstanding quality of care and learning provided.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the impact on children's literacy skills and their ability to see and use numbers and letters even more, following implementation of the planned extended use of the exciting outdoor areas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection. She also observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the provider and she also held a meeting with her.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, and evidence of the suitability of the provider and staff working with the children.
- The inspector considered the written views of parents and carers as expressed in written documents and in discussions during the inspection
- The inspector sampled a range of other documentation including the nursery's self-evaluation, the safeguarding policy and risk assessments.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider who is also the manager is passionate about providing high-quality care and education for children. She uses rigorous procedures for the recruitment and induction of new staff to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a comprehensive understanding of the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child. Staff are extremely well qualified, experienced and attend ongoing training. This has a positive impact on the outcomes for children. The management team effectively uses supervision meetings and regular observations of staff practice to ensure that the high quality of teaching is consistent. The provider and her staff use comprehensive ways to reflect on their practice and they strive for excellence. Parents and children's views are highly valued and included in the reflective process. The provider recognises the need to ensure that children who prefer learning outdoors have even more exciting opportunities to recognise and use numbers and letters during their active play.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The inspiring and highly knowledgeable staff demonstrate the utmost quality of teaching with children of all ages. They ensure that activities are exceptionally well planned to enhance all children's learning superbly well. For example, an interest in buildings leads to a topic about architecture from around the world. Children excitingly construct their own models and gain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Excellent teaching also helps children to extend their own thoughts and ideas so that they are highly motivated to learn more. Staff cleverly steer conversations and step in when appropriate to drive activities forward and to add extra challenge. For example, younger children sing and dance with gusto, older and more-able children record the origins of instruments from around the world in their 'music passports'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely happy and confident. The key-person system is securely in place. Children feel valued and cherished as all their needs are fully met by nurturing staff. All care practices are of an exceptionally high standard and healthy lifestyles are actively promoted. Transitions between rooms are seamless as staff sensitively support children's needs. Children's independence and physical skills are highly valued. Children demonstrate perseverance as they put on their outdoor shoes and coats before going outside. They show confidence in managing their own risks. Staff instinctively know when to offer support and when to stand back.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from where they start in their learning, including those who speak English as an additional language. Activities are planned specifically to close gaps in learning so that all children make rapid and sustained progress in relation to their starting points. This helps all children to be highly motivated and to have excellent levels of confidence. Children are extremely well prepared for their next stage in their learning, such as starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY435609
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	1024270
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	76
Name of provider	Karen Celia Stephenson
Date of previous inspection	19 April 2012
Telephone number	0208 451 6186

Crickets Montessori Nursery School was registered in 2011. The nursery school follows both Montessori and traditional teaching methods. The nursery school employs 10 members of childcare staff. Of these, eight hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and the majority of staff hold Montessori Teacher Status. The nursery school opens Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3.45pm, term time only. The nursery school supports children who speak English as an additional language and provides funding for early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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