

Head Start Day Nursery

54 Station Road, New Barnet, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 1QG



Inspection date

5 January 2016

Previous inspection date

19 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 management team implements robust recruitment procedures to ensure that they employ the best possible staff. Regular observation of staff's teaching, together with effective supervisions and appraisals, leads to high levels of consistent practice.
- The dedicated staff are good, positive role models. They teach children well and have high expectations. Children's behaviour is excellent. They play and learn together extremely well and make effective friendships.
- Children who speak English as an additional language, disabled children and those with special educational needs are skilfully supported. The nursery staff incorporate specialist services' targets into their educational plans for children. This helps all children make good progress towards the early learning goals.
- The key-person system is strong. Right from the start, staff find out from parents what children can already do. They support children who are new to the nursery very well, which helps them to settle quickly.
- The nursery staff have established strong partnerships with parents. Parents talk about the care and support the nursery staff provide for them and their children, especially at difficult family times.
- Staff actively use the nursery garden to enhance the children's enjoyment of the natural environment. Children enjoy looking for bugs and are careful not to hurt them.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not support all children to understand why they need to wash their hands at appropriate times.
- In the garden, the outdoor classroom is not always stimulating and well-resourced to support the learning of those children who prefer to be outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with clear messages about when it is appropriate to wash their hands in order to best support their good health
- ensure that resources and activities in the outdoor classroom are stimulating and welcoming to support the learning of all children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both indoors and in the outside play areas.
- The inspector talked to the staff and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation and held a meeting with the manager and owner.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documents and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding procedure.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and of the nursery's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have an excellent understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. They are fully aware of their responsibility to report any concerns about children's well-being and are confident in their ability to recognise child protection issues. The staff and management team use effective systems to review the educational programmes and to track the progress of both individual children and groups. The management team has good relationships with the local further education colleges. They work in partnership with them to employ and train apprentices. This is highly successful and many apprentices, on completion of their training, are employed as qualified staff members. Staff are supported with a targeted programme of professional development. This helps them to continuously develop their knowledge and understanding of how children learn.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children of all ages are eager to investigate and enjoy the many varied experiences on offer. The well-qualified staff ensure the activities help to promote their all-round development. They encourage children to use all of their senses as they learn. Young children enjoy filling containers with cooked pasta, and staff support their language development by modelling new words, such as slimy. Babies use sticks to splash in water and are encouraged to feel smooth rocks as they explore. Older children delight in digging in the mud and talk about how they are making compost. Staff support children well in their play, for example, they encourage them to find objects to weigh on balance scales. Children talk about items being heavy and light. Staff promote their understanding even more as they question children about how they can make both sides equal. Staff use their wealth of knowledge and experience to precisely identify and assess children's starting points and ongoing development. This helps to ensure all children make good progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are extremely confident and hold very effective conversations with each other and adults. They discuss their experiences from home and eagerly talk about forthcoming events, such as holidays. Staff support children to use their physical skills outdoors. Children walk carefully around or jump in and out of shapes they draw on the floor. Within the garden area, an outdoor classroom is available for a wide range of activities, such as writing. However, the staff do not always ensure that this is presented as a welcoming environment. Consequently, the needs of those children who prefer to learn outdoors are not best met. The staff are meticulous in ensuring the food they provide is healthy and meets the dietary needs of all children. However, on occasions they do not always support children to understand about when it is appropriate to wash their hands, such as before eating.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make consistent progress. Staff accurately assess children's development and provide a range of experiences that meets their individual needs. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, such as starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY217518
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	1024258
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	52
Number of children on roll	73
Name of provider	Head Start (Enfield) Limited
Date of previous inspection	19 April 2011
Telephone number	01438 840 681

Head Start Day Nursery was registered in 2002. The nursery employs 23 members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday all year round. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery supports disabled children and those with special educational needs, and children who speak English as an additional language.

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