

Inspection date

6 April 2016

Previous inspection date

18 October 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 passionate and dedicated management team has a clear vision for the future. It works very closely with staff and is exceptionally successful at seeking the views of parents and children to identify and make ongoing improvements. Staff constantly strive to make changes to move the nursery forward.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Staff work closely with parents, sharing comprehensive information about children's progress. Parents are fully involved in their children's learning. For example, older children take home simple homework with fun activities to share learning with parents.
- The quality of teaching is exceptionally high and staff use their highly effective skills to tailor activities precisely for children's individual needs and learning styles. Children make excellent progress in their learning and development.
- Key persons know their key children extremely well and meet their individual needs very effectively. They use extensive information from parents to provide tailored settling-in arrangements for each child. The extremely warm relationships with key persons help children feel particularly secure.
- Children are very safe in the nursery. Managers and staff have an excellent and up-to-date understanding of their role in safeguarding children, to keep them safe and protect them from harm.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the already wide range of challenging mathematical resources to help further inspire and excite children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children playing and staff interacting with them.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to staff, children and parents.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including the safeguarding policy and summaries of children's progress.

Inspector

Rachel Hurford

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The manager expertly monitors staff performance and makes precise and regular observations of their practice. She uses her findings to carefully target training to continually raise the quality of teaching. For example, recent training has greatly improved the programme for sensory play for younger children. Staff have involved parents in developing stimulating treasure baskets for young children to explore. Managers and staff meticulously monitor children's progress in order to identify and tackle any gaps in their learning. Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff place children's safety at the centre of everything they do. They work extremely closely with outside agencies to keep children safe from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are highly skilled at tailoring their teaching to the children's varying ages and stages of development. For example, staff provide older children who are starting to read with numerous opportunities to share books and even to read to their friends. Staff promote children's language development extremely well, especially those learning English as an additional language. For example, they work closely with parents to learn key words in children's home languages. They use these frequently to enhance children's learning. Staff take every opportunity to introduce mathematics into all activities. However, the mathematical resources freely available to children do not always fully inspire them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have an excellent awareness of healthy lifestyles and exercise. Staff create enjoyable activities to promote children's physical well-being. For example, they sing songs, such as 'The Grand Old Duke of York', as the children go up and down the slide. Children are extremely happy, confident and develop very high levels of self-esteem. For example, staff offer them excellent opportunities to explore their feelings. Staff work very closely with local schools, visiting them and sharing detailed information about the children to fully promote continuity in their learning. Staff offer frequent praise and encouragement for good behaviour. Children are exceptionally well behaved and even the youngest children play harmoniously with their friends and help one another.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

The nursery is a hive of activity where children are highly motivated to learn. Children are extremely confident to follow their own ideas. For example, they show their initiative as they choose magnetic shapes to build a mountain for toy ponies to climb. All children, including those learning English as an additional language, make excellent progress in their learning from their starting points. They are confident and gain extremely useful skills that prepare them well for their next stage in learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	138217
Local authority	Merton
Inspection number	1028380
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	59
Name of provider	Northcote House Nurseries Limited
Date of previous inspection	18 October 2013
Telephone number	020 8947 7058

Little House registered in 1996. It is situated in the London Borough of Merton. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 7pm for 51 weeks of the year. It is in receipt of funding for free nursery education sessions for children aged three and four years. The nursery employs 12 members of staff. Of these, one holds Qualified Teacher Status, one holds Early Years Professional Status and eight have qualifications at level 2 and 3.

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