

Merry Days

The Bourne Methodist Church Southgate, The Bourne, London, N14 6RS



Inspection date	29 April 2016
Previous inspection date	10 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 manager and staff have made positive changes since the last inspection. For example, parents now talk to their children's key person regularly and give valuable input into agreeing children's next steps, which also supports children's home learning.
- The effective key-person arrangements enable the staff and parents to work together from the start to support the children's well-being. The children form close relationships with their key persons, which helps them to settle very well and to develop confidence.
- The children enjoy the stimulating range of resources and activities, which interest them and motivate them to learn. The staff plan various experiences that help to move the children on well in their learning and development. Children make good progress.
- The staff focus on helping the children to be well prepared for school and the next stage in their learning. The children are independent learners who enjoy making their own decisions. The staff build effective partnerships with parents, other professionals and with school staff that support all children's needs ready for their move to school.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, staff do not provide enough time for the children to think for themselves and to act on the tasks or questions provided in order to work out how to do things.
- The manager has only just started looking at the progress made by some groups of children. This means that she cannot be sure that all possible gaps in learning and the development of different groups are identified and addressed as quickly as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that the staff give children enough time to think for themselves to answer the questions asked of them and to act on the tasks provided, before supplying the answers or doing something for them
- extend monitoring of the progress made by different groups of children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the garden.
- The inspector sampled written observation, planning, assessment and registration records.
- The inspector held conversations with the owner/manager, the staff, some parents, and the children during the inspection.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of staff to work with children, their qualification certificates, and the owner/manager's policies and procedures.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the owner/manager.

Inspector

Nataliia Moroz

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The owner/manager has worked well with the staff to improve the nursery's quality, and has met all previous actions and recommendations effectively. The staff have regular support and any development points are quickly recognised through support meetings. Staff are encouraged to continue their professional development, which has helped to provide good quality teaching. The owner/manager monitors the provision and the children's progress. She works closely with outside professionals, parents and the staff to deal with any development needs identified for individual children. Safeguarding is effective. The owner/manager has robust ways to ensure that all staff are suitable to work with children. They all know what actions to take to keep children safe from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The staff use their knowledge about the children to plan experiences that match each child's learning needs and that address their next steps. All children, including those who are learning English as an additional language, develop good communication skills. For example, staff demonstrate how to speak clearly, they read to the children and sing songs to extend vocabularies. Activities engage the children well and allow them to learn through investigation. Their early literacy skills are developing well. Children benefit from a good range of activities that develop their knowledge of the world around them. For example, children enjoy experimenting with magnets to find which materials stick to them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children play and explore happily in a welcoming environment. They are safe and secure in the nursery. Staff are good role models to them. They give clear and consistent guidance to help the children understand the boundaries set and to behave well. Children learn to respect and help each other. They learn to be kind not only to other children and to adults, but to animals as well. For example, they look after the nursery's giant snail; they feed it and learn to be gentle with it. The staff help children learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles. Children follow good hygiene routines, eat fruit and have regular play outside. The staff promote the children's awareness of themselves, their families and their festivals, and help them to understand others' celebrations.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who have special educational needs or disability and those who are learning English as an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. The staff skilfully identify the more able children and help them progress even further. The older children are well prepared to take their first steps into school. They recognise letters and can read their names, and some can read simple words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY421193
Local authority	Enfield
Inspection number	1028393
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	24
Name of provider	Julie Denise Brook Walker
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2013
Telephone number	07810551023

Merry Days nursery first opened in 1985 and re-registered under the current provider in 2010. It is situated in Southgate, in the London Borough of Enfield. It is open each weekday from 8am to 5pm during school terms. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. The owner, who is the manager, employs four staff who all hold relevant childcare qualifications.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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