

Little Raccoons Day Nursery

108 Swains Lane, Highgate, London, N6 6PH



Inspection date

26 May 2016

Previous inspection date

30 April 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

- Staff give high priority to promoting children's emotional well-being so that all children feel happy and secure at the pre-school. Children's behaviour is good. Staff are kind and caring when interacting with children and are welcoming and supportive to their families.
- The manager implements thorough systems for checking that all staff are suitable to care for children. She closely monitors their performance and provides ongoing support.
- Staff teach well, and children gain the necessary skills for their future learning. Staff use detailed assessments to support children, especially those who speak English as an additional language. All children make good progress given what they know when they start.
- Children have a good understanding of a healthy lifestyle and they benefit from eating healthy and nutritious food daily.
- Children have positive opportunities to learn about others, including the community that they live in, to extend their knowledge about the wider community.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times there are missed opportunities for children to learn about and explore the mathematical idea of shape.
- Staff do not always extend opportunities for children to develop their coordination skills, particularly their large body movements.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to learn about shape to extend their mathematical understanding
- develop further opportunities for children to practise their physical coordination, particularly to help strengthen their large body movements and skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took into account of views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled children's records and other relevant documentation.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and spoke to staff, identifying their role in the setting.
- The inspector checked records of the suitability checks and qualifications of staff working at the pre-school.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the area manager.

Inspector

Julia Maria Gouldsboro

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff carry out rigorous risk assessments daily and implement thorough policies and procedures to underpin their good practice. The manager and staff are knowledgeable about the procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff are well trained in paediatric first aid and safeguarding. They continually update their knowledge, for example, by accessing training to enhance their practice. Parents comment positively on the setting. They have opportunities to give their views about what works well or what could improve. Effective self-evaluation includes the views of parents, children and staff and is used to improve outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff focus their attention on the children, showing a genuine interest in what they do. They plan activities to motivate children to investigate and learn. For example, children develop an understanding of growth and change over time as they grow cress and mix it with eggs to make sandwiches. They describe the eggs and discuss where the eggs come from. Children develop good communication and language skills. For example, staff make good use of conversations and discussions to help extend children's vocabulary. In a music session, children joined in with the actions and repeated the key words of songs accurately. Children show an interest in how things work. For instance, they are fascinated by the jack in the box toy and anticipate sounds and actions when an adult demonstrates the action. The key-person system contributes effectively to engaging parents in their children's learning and development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are positive examples to the children. They treat each other with respect and work well as a team. They use clear, consistent language and expectations so children know what to do. Children make choices in their play as they move between the various activities and enjoy what they do. They benefit from being taught about healthy lifestyles, including regular exercise. Staff encourage children's independence well, such as helping children to learn about basic routine hygiene practices. Children understand the importance of washing hands to stop the spread of germs, for example.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. They are inquisitive to learn and show good levels of concentration. They focus well on tasks. For example, they share books with the staff and recall stories that they know. Children can count and recognise colours throughout their daily play. They develop their early writing, number and communication skills well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY449324
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	1028355
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	28
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Little Raccoons Day Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP530922
Date of previous inspection	30 April 2013
Telephone number	07973219539

Little Racoons Day Nursery registered in 2012. It is located in Highgate, in the London Borough of Camden. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm all year round, except public holidays. The provider employs 11 staff. The manager and an experienced member of staff have achieved qualified teacher status. Five members of staff are suitably qualified at level 2 or above, and newer staff are working towards a qualification at level 3.

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