

Old Barn Pre-School

Long Lane Scout Centre, Rear of 190 Long Lane, London, N3 2RA



Inspection date

6 June 2016

Previous inspection date

7 March 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 leadership and management of the pre-school are strong. Decisive action has been taken since the last inspection to bring about necessary improvements. A robust system of self-evaluation is in place to secure continued and effective improvement.
- Effective partnerships with parents, the local authority and other professionals involved in the children's care are well established. The committee also provides support to the manager in her role as she reviews the needs of the staff team in raising the quality of practice further. This helps ensure a consistent approach to meeting children's needs.
- A welcoming and nurturing environment enables children to enjoy their learning. They benefit from a good level of teaching and support from caring staff. Staff help children to learn well, such as problem solving or in being creative. All children make good progress given what they know when they start.
- There is a strong key-person system and children's emotional well-being is supported effectively. Children form secure and warm attachments with them and others.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times staff do not always focus sharply on identifying what children need to learn next to improve their progress.
- Staff do not always help children understand the importance and benefits of physical exercise to help them keep healthy.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen processes to identify clearly what children need to learn next to aid their progress
- help children to understand further the importance of physical activity on their health and well-being.

Inspection activities

- Prior to the inspection, the inspector viewed the pre-school's last report and its self-evaluation document.
- The inspector looked at children's records and planning documentation.
- The inspector checked the evidence of the qualifications and the suitability of staff working in the setting and also looked at a range of other documentation.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and carried out a joint observation with the manager. The inspector assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to some parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Julia Maria Gouldsboro

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Regular risk assessments ensure that the environment is safe for children. All staff know what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Previous recommendations and actions have been addressed. Monitoring of staff helps them to improve their knowledge and support children's learning. For example, through videoing staff, the manager reflects on how to improve practice. Staff attend a range of training and share their knowledge with each other at regular staff meetings. The setting works well with the local college and supports students completing training. Effective self-evaluation, which includes the views of parents, children and staff, is used to improve outcomes. Additional funding supports children well in their development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Developing language and communication skills is a high priority in the pre-school. For instance, staff reinforce children's learning through repetition. They talk to the children during their play and encourage them to express themselves by using signs, gestures, visual aids and open ended questions. Children who speak English as an additional language or have special needs are supported effectively. Children have fun when learning. For instance, staff join in with their role play and encourage imagination using humour to engage children. Parents comment on what their children learn and are particularly happy with the social skills children gain.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff speak kindly to the children, offering encouragement and praise. This helps to build their self-confidence. Children spend time outdoors. For example, they play on the ride bikes and scooters and paint blackboards with water. Children are happy and confident, and enjoy exploring and investigating the environment. Children receive good support to behave well and learn to be safe. For instance, they use knives to cut vegetables and fruit during snack time. Staff are caring and receptive to children's reactions and feelings, and are supportive to their families. Children have positive opportunities to learn about others, including the community they live in, to extend their knowledge about the local community.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. Their communication, mathematical and literacy skills develop well. For example, children count objects confidently and eagerly practise their early writing skills when making a pretend shopping list. When making modelling material, they count the scoops of flour they need and describe the texture when mixing the ingredients. They are beginning to recognise the letters in their name. Children develop the skills they need for the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY410839
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	1028137
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	24
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	St Marys Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910526
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2013
Telephone number	07977846922

The Old Barn Pre-School registered in 1981 and is in the London Borough of Barnet. It is run by a parent committee and provides funded early education and is in receipt of Early Years pupil premium. All 5 staff hold relevant qualifications and the manager has a degree in Early Years practice. The pre-school opens term time only from 9.15am until 2.15pm.

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