

Mace Montessori Nursery

The Home Counties House Property Co Ltd, Gloucester House, 150 Woodside Lane,
London, N12 8TP



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| Inspection date | 2 December 2016 |
| Previous inspection date | 1 October 2013 |

| The quality and standards of the early years provision | This inspection: | Good | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | Previous inspection: | Good | 2 |
| 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

- Children form secure attachments with caring and attentive staff. They show that they feel secure and happy. They are motivated learners and enjoy their time at nursery.
- Staff know children well and provide individualised care and learning. The manager monitors children's progress continuously and works with staff to move their learning forward and provide additional support where needed.
- Staff encourage children's mathematical learning particularly well through a wide range of stimulating experiences. For example, children learn about shapes and develop early mathematical concepts while they count, sort objects and build with blocks.
- Staff establish close partnerships with parents to meet children's needs effectively. Parents say that they are very happy with the level of care and learning provided for their children. They feel well informed and listened to if they have any concerns.
- The manager makes continuous improvements and has addressed the previous actions and recommendations well. She evaluates the setting effectively, and seeks the views of others, to raise the quality of provision and ensure good outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the organisation of some learning experiences does not fully support children to remain focused and engaged to take their learning to a higher level.
- Staff do not consistently enable children to explore creative experiences to enhance their imaginative and pretend play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore ways to further encourage children's concentration and engagement during their everyday activities, to help them make even better progress
- enhance opportunities for pre-school children to engage in role play and use their imaginations to explore and express their thoughts, feelings and experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's learning experiences indoors and outdoors, and the quality of interactions between staff and children.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and staff, and spoke to the children.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took their views into account.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager and discussed the findings with her.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including policies and procedures, children's development records and staff suitability checks.

Inspector

Hiroka Dathan

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures policies and procedures are up to date and that all staff are regularly trained. Staff are confident in identifying signs that may cause them concern and the correct procedures for reporting these to keep children safe. The manager monitors staff performance continuously to raise the quality of practice. She supports staff in their professional development; for example, many staff train for further qualifications and undertake regular training to improve teaching. The manager has a clear overview of each child's progress and ensures additional support is provided swiftly where needed. She works well in partnerships with parents and other professionals to ensure children receive the support they need.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff observe children regularly and clearly identify their next steps in learning to plan targeted activities. Children enjoy regular small group activities supported by attentive staff. Staff move children's learning forward effectively by setting achievable challenges and providing opportunities for them to enhance their social skills. They encourage children to make independent choices while they play and children demonstrate good levels of motivation in completing their chosen tasks. For example, a younger child carefully completes an inset puzzle, while an older child spends a long time creating a symmetrical building out of blocks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The key-person system is effective. Children benefit from regular quality time with their key person and form close bonds with them. Babies receive warm and affectionate care. They are well settled and explore their environment happily. Younger children are well supported when moving to the next age group and older children confidently develop key skills that prepare them well for starting school. Children have plenty of opportunities to develop their physical skills. For example, in the well-equipped outdoor area, they enjoy practising climbing, balancing, running and jumping, while inside they happily engage in yoga sessions. During these activities, staff allow children to take risks, but at the same time teach them how to keep themselves and others safe. Staff teach children about healthy eating effectively as part of developing their understanding of healthy lifestyles.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well from their starting points, including the most-able children and those who have special educational needs. Children have many opportunities to practise their early writing skills which prepare them well for future learning. For example, younger children enjoy making marks on large pieces of paper, while older children challenge themselves to write their own name.

Setting details

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| Unique reference number | EY435239 |
| Local authority | Barnet |
| Inspection number | 1062526 |
| Type of provision | Full-time provision |
| Day care type | Childcare - Non-Domestic |
| Registers | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register |
| Age range of children | 0 - 4 |
| Total number of places | 99 |
| Number of children on roll | 94 |
| Name of registered person | Mace Montessori Schools Limited |
| Registered person unique reference number | RP908920 |
| Date of previous inspection | 1 October 2013 |
| Telephone number | 02084461969 |

Mace Montessori Nursery is managed by Mace Montessori Schools Limited. The nursery registered in 2011. It is located in North Finchley, in the London Borough of Barnet. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, and operates throughout the year. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The provider employs 17 staff; of whom seven hold early years qualifications at level 3 and three hold qualifications at level 4. A further member of staff holds early years professional status. The setting follows the Montessori approach to education.

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