

Leading Strings Playgroup

St. John's Church Hall, Bourne Hill, Palmers Green, London, N13 4DA



Inspection date

13 December 2016

Previous inspection date

25 February 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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 effective management team have made positive changes since the previous inspection and addressed all the actions and recommendations. They have improved outcomes for children. Managers regularly review the provision and consider parents' and children's views in making improvements.
- Staff understand how children learn and develop. They regularly review children's progress and plan exciting activities, which enthuse children and spark their curiosity. All children make good progress.
- Children relate well to each other and to the staff around them. They are polite and develop good social skills.
- Children benefit from regular physical exercise indoors and outside. They gain a good understanding about the benefits of having a healthy diet.
- Partnerships with parents, schools and other professionals are well established. These provide children with continuity in care and learning, which helps to promote their progress and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff do not provide children with enough time to think and answer questions. Sometimes, questions staff ask do not fully extend children's thinking skills.
- Sometimes, staff do not use all opportunities to encourage older children to practise their writing skills, such as forming recognisable letters in preparation for school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- give children more time to think before providing them with ideas or resolutions to problems to extend children's thinking skills further
- use more opportunities to help older children practise writing skills, such as forming recognisable letters in readiness for the move to school.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability to work with children and read some of the provider's policies and procedures.
- The inspector looked at some documentation relating to observations, planning, employment and registration records.
- The inspector observed activities indoors and outside and held conversations with the managers, staff, some parents and some children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with one of the managers.

Inspector

Nataliia Moroz

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team maintain thorough recruitment procedures and ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a good awareness of how to keep children safe and ensure their welfare. The managers monitor staff performance, for example, through regular supervision meetings and daily discussions. Staff are well-qualified reflective practitioners, who are eager to develop their knowledge and skills. The recent emphasis on the quality of teaching and range of activities provided has raised children's levels of attainment since the last inspection. Parents report that they are happy with the services provided and how their children progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use effective teaching methods to support children. They plan carefully for children's individual learning needs following their current interest. For example, when children show interest in winter, staff set up snow activities. Children enjoy playing with a wide range of good-quality toys and materials. For example, they learn how to make playdough, build towers with wooden blocks and ride tricycles. Staff support children's language and communication. They focus strongly on helping children who learn English as an additional language to close any gaps in their communication skills. Children who are eligible for the free early years education funding are supported well to make good progress. Staff ensure that any gaps in their learning and development are addressed.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The nursery is a welcoming and relaxing place. Children fully enjoy themselves and explore with confidence. The key-person system is established effectively. Staff help each child to settle smoothly and work with their parents. They have a good understanding of children's needs and interests. Children feel safe and secure. Staff are good role models to children. They interact with children in a calm and respectful manner. Children learn about wider community and celebrate different festivals. Children's behaviour is good.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who learn English as an additional language, make good progress from their starting points. Children are independent learners and enjoy making their own decisions. They are confident to share their thoughts and gain necessary skills for their future learning. For example, children practise their mathematical skills during activities indoors and outside.

Setting details

Unique reference number	135311
Local authority	Enfield
Inspection number	1041803
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	42
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Sandra Bennett and Tina Eaves Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP525070
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2016
Telephone number	07516 452392

Leading Strings Pre-School registered in 1996. It is located in Palmers Green, in the London Borough of Enfield. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm during school term time. The nursery is funded to provide free early years education to children aged three and four years. The provider employs four staff, all of whom hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3 and above. One of the managers holds early years professional status and qualified teacher status and the deputy manager also holds qualified teacher status.

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