

The Littlehaven Nursery

Castlehaven Community Association, The Community Centre, 21 Castlehaven Road,
London, NW1 8RU



Inspection date

18 May 2017

Previous inspection date

28 May 2015

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

- The management team works effectively to support the smooth and efficient running of the nursery. The manager and deputy offer good levels of support and mentoring to the staff, which contributes towards good quality provision for all children.
- Staff are confident and secure in their roles. They have a secure understanding of children's individual needs, which they plan for and support well.
- Staff effectively observe and track children's progress to identify their achievements, in order to plan activities to support the next stages in their learning and target any areas that require further support.
- Children are progressing well in the different areas of learning and they enjoy a good balance of activities.
- There is an effective key-person system in place. Staff use this well to help children form secure attachments with them. They also forge effective relationships with parents to involve them in their children's care and learning.
- Self-evaluation provides an accurate overview of the setting's strengths and areas for improvement, in order to continually develop the provision.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to support the language development of babies and children who are learning English as an additional language.
- Staff miss opportunities to further extend children's understanding of nature and the natural world.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for babies and children who are learning English to develop their communication skills in a more language-enriched environment
- extend further the opportunities for children to explore with natural resources and develop their understanding of nature.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all areas of learning, including the outdoor area.
- The inspector spoke to staff and engaged with children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, documents relating to staff, including suitability details, and the nursery's policies and procedures.
- The inspector invited the manager to conduct a joint observation.

Inspector

Samantha Smith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff fully understand their roles and responsibilities to protect children from harm and they are aware of the nursery's procedures for reporting any concerns. There are effective recruitment and vetting arrangements in place to ensure that staff suitability is checked robustly. Staff are mentored and supported through supervision and they have training opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills. The management team monitors the quality of teaching and children's progress. They are beginning to use this effectively to identify any gaps in provision. Staff work well with external agencies to ensure that, where required, children receive the additional support they need.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, the quality of teaching throughout the nursery is good. Staff engage well with children as they play and consider their individual learning needs and interests when planning activities. For example, while babies play with bottles containing lentils and rice, staff motivate them to explore the different textures and sounds. Older children take charge of their own play and freely explore their environment. They have opportunities to engage in role play, arts and crafts and to practise their writing skills. They display good cooperation and problem-solving skills, such as when they work together to complete a large construction activity the garden. Staff skilfully observe and question them to extend their thinking further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children's personal, social and emotional skills are developing well. Babies seek comfort from staff as they approach them for reassuring hugs and cuddles. Older children behave responsibly, respond positively to staff and demonstrate high levels of independence. For example, they manage their personal needs, serve themselves and clear away at mealtimes, and sometimes help to prepare snacks for the babies. Staff promote children's good health well. For example, all children are encouraged to follow routine hygiene practices, such regular handwashing. Staff help children to develop their physical skills. For example, children enjoy balancing and riding bikes, and gain confidence in climbing.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those for whom the provider receives funding for early education, are making good progress in their learning and development, in readiness for school. They are developing a good awareness of safety. For example, older children carefully handle utensils, and babies learn to negotiate and manage risks for themselves as they freely move around the outdoor learning environment. Children show a keen interest in books and look at them independently in different learning environments.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY424738
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	1094747
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	43
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Castlehaven Community Association
Registered person unique reference number	RP901868
Date of previous inspection	28 May 2015
Telephone number	0207 485 3386

The Littlehaven Nursery registered in 2011 and is located in the London Borough of Camden. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. There are seven staff employed at the nursery and most hold early years qualifications at level 3 or above. This includes one member of staff who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery is in receipt of funding for children aged two, three and four years.

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