

Leaping Lizards Day Nursery Ltd



Whittington Park Community Centre, 86 Yerbury Road, London, N19 4RS

Inspection date	5 July 2017
Previous inspection date	30 March 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The manager is passionate about achieving the highest quality in all areas of the provision. She actively seeks the views of staff, children and parents when evaluating the setting. Well-targeted plans help to maintain excellent outcomes for children.
- The manager has rigorous systems for monitoring staff performance. These include regular observations and reviews of staff's training needs. Staff say that they are extremely well supported to enhance their skills by the enthusiastic manager.
- Teaching is of a consistently high standard. Staff present activities in interesting ways which appeal to children's interests and challenge their thinking. They skilfully recognise where and how to provide appropriate support and encouragement to help sustain children's concentration and enjoyment.
- Children develop extremely close and caring bonds with staff. As a result, they are confident and well settled, and thoroughly enjoy their time at nursery.
- Partnerships with parents are highly effective. Parents report that there is an excellent exchange of information which fully supports continuity in their child's care and learning.
- Children, including those who are learning English as an additional language, make excellent progress from their starting points. Children who need additional support and those who are high achievers are extremely well supported to accomplish as much as they can.
- Staff make the most of opportunities for further training to improve their teaching practice. For example, they have strengthened their understanding of phonics, which has had a highly positive effect on older children's reading skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the opportunities for babies and younger children to explore different ways of making marks.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a range of activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the quality of teaching and its impact on children's learning.
- The inspector had a meeting with the nursery manager. She also explored the views of staff and children at intervals during the inspection.
- The inspector had discussions with a number of parents and took account of their views, along with a selection of written feedback from parents.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including policies and procedures, staff's suitability checks and children's learning records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Sarah Crawford

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to keep children safe. They know how to recognise signs which might indicate a child is at risk from harm and how to report any concerns. The manager uses highly effective systems to monitor the progress made by different groups of children. She swiftly identifies any gaps in their learning and successfully puts in place measures to ensure that these are rapidly closed. For example, staff have broadened the range of opportunities for older children to make marks. This has led to a significant improvement in writing skills for boys. Staff plan to extend this by further developing the extensive range of opportunities for babies and younger children to explore mark-making.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff closely observe and monitor children's progress and understand their individual needs exceptionally well. They use their own knowledge, alongside information from children and parents, to plan an excellent range of activities which helps children move on to the next stages in their learning. Children benefit from an extensive range of resources which enables them to explore their own ideas and interests. Adult-led activities are carefully planned so that they challenge and extend children's thinking. For example, as children mix ingredients to make playdough, they experiment to find out what will happen if they add more water or more flour. Children develop a sound knowledge of the local and wider community. For example, they enjoy regular outings to the library, parks and other places of interest.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are exceptionally kind and responsive to children. They get to know the children very well and value their ideas and opinions. For example, they organise weekly meetings where children discuss their current interests and request activities for the following week. This helps to boost children's self-esteem and promotes their sense of belonging within the setting. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They show a deep awareness of their own feelings and those of others, and display extremely high levels of self-control and cooperation as they play. Staff support children's enjoyment of healthy lifestyles extremely well. For example, they carefully explain the importance of healthy eating in ways that young children understand and to which they respond. This greatly enhances children's understanding of their own physical needs.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Even the youngest children are highly motivated to learn and show high levels of concentration and enjoyment as they play. They develop a wide range of skills and knowledge which supports the next stages in their learning, including being ready to start school. Older children develop an excellent knowledge of the alphabet and begin to link letters to the sounds they make. Babies use their senses to explore natural materials and resources. They enjoy discovering the sight, feel and smell of foods with different textures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY365093
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	1093257
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	Leaping Lizards Day Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527473
Date of previous inspection	30 March 2015
Telephone number	020 76193624

Leaping Lizards Day Nursery Ltd registered in 2007. The nursery is open from 8am until 6pm each weekday, for 50 weeks of the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. The setting employs 16 members of staff. Of these, 13 hold recognised early years qualifications. The manager has a qualification at level 5 while other staff hold qualifications at levels 2 and 3.

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