

Northwood Day Nursery

Northwood Headquarters, Sandy Lane, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 3HP



Inspection date	21 August 2017
Previous inspection date	11 January 2017

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision			
	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 ambitious management team and well-qualified committed team of staff have successfully worked in close partnership to address the actions raised at the previous inspection. For example, staff accurately identify and plan for children's next steps in learning to help them to make good progress.
- Children develop a good understanding of the wider world. They had a unique opportunity to meet the Queen and present her with some flowers. Children also learn about the positive impact animals can have in helping others as they meet and learn about the role of sniffer dogs.
- Children demonstrate that they feel relaxed and happy in this welcoming nursery. They build secure relationships with each other and with all staff. For instance, babies snuggle up to their key person when they become tired and older children are eager to talk about the activities they enjoyed on their recent holiday.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff do not always provide all younger children with excellent opportunities to increase their confidence when exploring and experimenting with sensory materials.
- Staff do not always identify opportunities for older and most-able children to express and demonstrate what they have learned, following planned activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the good quality of teaching even further to help all younger children to explore and experiment with various sensory materials
- enhance opportunities for older and most-able children to understand the purpose of activities in order to help them to recognise their abilities and what they have achieved.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed the nursery's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager, owner of the nursery and the manager of the sister nursery. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff demonstrate a secure knowledge of safeguarding procedures to follow should a concern arise about a child. Robust recruitment arrangements fulfil the high expectations that the nursery has in place. Staff receive regular supervision meetings that precisely focus on continuing to strengthen their skills. These meetings complement the very good training opportunities. For instance, to enhance the learning environment to further support children who speak English as an additional language. The whole staff team regularly evaluates the provision they offer. The manager thoroughly monitors children's progress. Swift action is taken to address any gaps in children's learning. Staff work in successful partnership with other professionals to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Older children express a strong explorative instinct. They work out, through trial and error that they need to pour larger amounts of water down the tubes positioned at different heights to enable the lightweight balls to flow faster. Staff consistently respond to babies babbles and their early attempts at talking, helping them to learn the pattern of conversation. Babies are inquisitive and motivated to copy staff's actions. They shake clear bottles filled with different objects and smile with delight as they explore different sounds. Young children join interlocking building blocks together to create cubes and work together to join pieces of a train track together.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and positively benefit from staff being good role models. Parents speak highly of the nursery. They are very impressed how well staff know their children and appreciate the detailed feedback they receive about their children's progress. Effective arrangements are in place to help children to feel comfortable and swiftly settle when they begin attending. Children develop good physical skills. For example, older children persevere spinning a hula hoop around their waist. Babies pull themselves up on sturdy equipment helping to develop strength in their legs in preparation for walking.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in relation to their starting points, including those who speak English as an additional language or have special educational needs and/or disabilities. For example, young children are able to recognise their name. Older children solve mathematical problems, such as addition as they add together the beanbags they throw into numbered hoops. They manage their own personal needs and persevere using their cutlery correctly to cut up the food they serve themselves for lunch. They gain the necessary skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY218985
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1083457
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	45
Number of children on roll	51
Name of registered person	Helen McIlrath Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535232
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2017
Telephone number	01923957028

Northwood Day Nursery registered in 2002. It is one of two nurseries run privately by the same provider. The nursery employs 19 members of childcare staff. Of these, 13 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including two members of staff who hold a qualification at level 6. The nursery opens from 7.45am until 5.30pm Monday to Friday, all year round. It provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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