

Sparklers Nursery

The Watling Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, EDGWARE, Middlesex, HA8 0TR



Inspection date	15 September 2017
Previous inspection date	19 February 2014

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

- Staff provide a caring and inclusive learning environment where children feel safe and secure. Children settle in quickly and make friends. Their behaviour is good.
- Staff are sensitive to the needs of children. Children make good progress in relation to their individual starting points. Staff prepare children well for the next stages in their learning and development, including the move on to school.
- Managers share effective policies and procedures with staff and parents to support children's safety and well-being.
- Staff work well in partnership with parents. For example, they keep parents well informed about their children's progress and well-being. They involve them in planning the next steps in their children's learning.
- Managers support staff well and offer them professional development opportunities. They continually monitor and evaluate their work to ensure that children achieve well and staff care for them effectively.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, some staff do not challenge children effectively to develop their mathematical skills and to solve problems independently.
- Occasionally, staff do not organise movement between activities well enough to minimise disruption to some children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to extend their mathematical skills and to solve problems independently
- minimise interruptions to children's learning and help them to remain focused.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all parts of the nursery, including the outdoor provision.
- The inspector spoke to some members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection and held meetings with the nursery management team.
- The inspector conducted joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection and reviewed parents' written comments and suggestions.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, the nursery's policies and procedures, and documents relating to the suitability of staff.

Inspector

Fatiha Maitland

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The provider follows clear recruitment, vetting and induction procedures to help ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding practices and they check the premises regularly to keep children safe. Managers and staff track the progress that children make. When identifying gaps in children's learning, staff provide well-targeted support to help children catch up. Managers observe staff regularly and tell them what they can do to strengthen their skills. Staff attend courses, observe each other and share their knowledge with colleagues to benefit children's learning. Managers act on the views of staff, parents and others to evaluate their practice and to continually provide a good service. They provide information for parents about the staff, their qualifications and the children they support.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff use gradual settling-in arrangements to help children to become familiar with their routines and expectations. They use their ongoing observation, along with information they obtain from parents, to plan interesting activities to motivate children to learn. Staff explain activities well to children. Children have good attitudes to learning and they use their imagination well. They experiment with different coloured paints to create pictures, using pinecones to print. Children are fascinated to observe how paint colours change when they mix together. Children eagerly join in with songs and rhymes. Staff introduce children to books and encourage them to comment on their favourite pictures. Staff hold discussions with children and skilfully support their communication and language skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff talk to children in a calm manner. They encourage children to express their thoughts and teach them to respect others who are different from themselves. Children learn to share toys fairly and take turns. Staff help children to adopt healthy lifestyles. For instance, children know that fruit and milk have goodness to help them grow. During the inspection, staff encouraged older children to prepare fruit snacks to share with their friends and helped all children to serve their own snacks and meals. Children engage well in outdoor play. For example, young children enjoy playing on the swings. Older children create stepping stones using tyres and they balance with confidence.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points and any gaps in their learning are closing. Children listen attentively and respond well to requests. Young children learn to handle resources safely. Older children recognise letters and the sounds they represent, and can write their names correctly unaided. They develop good technology skills as they use a variety of tools to support their learning. Children are confident to talk to others about past and present events in their lives.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY375063
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	1109067
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	1 - 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	61
Name of registered person	First Meditation Enterprise Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP906958
Date of previous inspection	19 February 2014
Telephone number	02089593434

Sparklers Nursery registered in 2006 and the organisation of its ownership changed in 2008. The nursery is situated in Edgware, in the London Borough of Barnet. The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, for 48 weeks of the year. The provider receives funding to offer free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 10 members of staff, nine of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to 5.

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