

North Islington Nursery School and Childrens Centre

110/112 Tollington Park, London, N4 3RB



Inspection date

4 October 2017

Previous inspection date

19 November 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

- Self-evaluation processes are effective. The manager reflects on the setting's practice well, recognising the strengths and areas for development. A clear action plan in place helps target areas of improvement and maintain good levels of care and teaching.
- Children develop the necessary skills in readiness for their future learning and for their move on to school. They learn to be independent and do things for themselves, such as serving their food at mealtimes and develop their sense of responsibility.
- Staff are caring and children form warm relationships with them. They are sensitive to children's needs and support their emotional well-being effectively. Children are happy and new children settle in well.
- Children have good opportunities to learn about diversity, such as when exploring displays that reflect each other's backgrounds. Children learn to value each other's differences and develop their understanding of different people in the community.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, some staff are not confident in the way that they respond to children's behaviour, to help children gain a deeper understanding of their expectations.
- Staff miss some opportunities during activities to provide challenges that precisely match children's individual needs, to help extend their learning experiences even further.

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 staff's knowledge of how to manage children's behaviour, so children gain an even greater understanding of expectations
- strengthen staff's teaching during activities to help refine children's learning experiences and offer more precise challenges that match their individual development needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interactions between children and staff as they engaged in activities together.
- The inspector and the deputy manager undertook a joint observation of a teaching activity.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff during the inspection about children's care and the activities provided for them.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents and carers spoken to on the day, and engaged with children at appropriate times.
- The inspector viewed documentation during the inspection, such as the setting's policies and procedures and children's assessment folders.

Inspector

Anneka Qayyum

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager understands her responsibility to protect children and implements effective policies and procedures to ensure their welfare. Staff know how to recognise and report any signs that could indicate a child may be at risk of harm. The manager and deputy monitor staff practice well and reflect on the quality of their practice effectively, to help maintain good teaching levels. The manager seeks the views of others, such as parents, and acts on any advice to help improve children's outcomes. She offers good opportunities for staff to develop their skills, such as through training sessions and supervisory meetings. The manager checks on children's progress effectively to swiftly recognise and address any gaps in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children play in an inviting, well-organised environment with a good range of interesting, age-appropriate resources. Children enjoy opportunities to explore using their senses, such as helping to make modelling material. Toddlers learn how to use tools to mix ingredients and learn to name the things they are using, developing their language skills well. Children concentrate well and are keen to join in. Staff offer good opportunities for children to develop their mathematical skills. For example, they help older children to recognise numbers and talk about time. In addition, they model simple mathematical language, such as when describing size, to help younger children use words in context. Staff check on children's ongoing development effectively and know their key children well. They make regular observations of children's abilities and, overall, plan suitably challenging activities to support their good development. Staff work with parents effectively. For instance, they share information about children's progress and give ideas on how they can support children's development at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff support children's understanding of healthy lifestyles effectively. Children eat nutritious foods, are active and enjoy using equipment. For example, they use climbing equipment and slides to help develop their balance and physical skills. Staff regularly assess risks in all areas that children use to identify and remove any hazards. Children learn to say, 'please' and 'thank you' and develop good manners.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. They develop good social skills, such as interacting with others confidently. Children communicate and listen well. Babies explore confidently and toddlers enjoy babbling, and learn to use words in context. Children learn to handle books carefully. Older children develop their small-muscle skills well, such as when helping to cut food in preparation for snack time.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317201
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	1070733
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	82
Number of children on roll	95
Name of registered person	North Islington Nursery School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP908382
Date of previous inspection	19 November 2014
Telephone number	0207 527 4844

North Islington Nursery and Childrens Centre registered in 2006. It operates in Finsbury Park, in the London Borough of Islington. It employs 28 staff in total. One member of staff holds early years professional status, three have qualified teacher status, one has a qualification at level 4. Of the remaining staff, 17 have a qualification at level 3 and one a qualification at level 2. The setting opens Monday to Friday, all year round. They provide funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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