

Archway Children's Centre

Vorley Road, Archway, London, N19 5HE



Inspection date	24 October 2017
Previous inspection date	19 August 2013

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

- Staff build exceptionally strong partnerships with parents. They fully value parents' role and input in their children's learning. Staff frequently share information with them about what their children are working on. They provide a wealth of ideas that parents can use to further support their children's learning at home.
- Children rapidly build very close bonds with their key person and other staff. They flourish in the staff's care and greet them with enthusiasm on arrival. Children are very happy and feel safe in the children's centre. Staff rapidly provide reassurance and comfort when needed, which helps children to quickly grow in confidence.
- The management team is inspirational. High expectations motivate staff to continue to provide the highest quality of teaching. All staff contribute to the very effective evaluation of practice. The important views of parents and children are frequently gathered and these are incorporated into the management's plans for further development.
- Children have excellent opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They eagerly participate in forest school sessions and exploring their local area. They enjoy taking part in football sessions and using the wide range of climbing equipment at the children's centre. Children enjoy caring for plants and talk about what they need to grow. They discuss how bees collect pollen from the plants.
- Children's mathematical development is fully promoted by staff. They make excellent use of every opportunity to challenge and extend children's development. Older children count how many objects they add to a pretend potion mix and write the matching numbers. Younger children sing from five to one in their favourite rhymes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enrich the already excellent, imaginative and challenging experiences for children to further support and extend their learning.

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 during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the children's centre manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the children's centre manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Michelle Baldock

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and dedicated staff team put children's safety and welfare as the highest priority. They have an excellent knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse. Staff know whom to contact in their local authority with any such concerns. They have frequent meetings to discuss and update their knowledge and training. The management team has embedded a highly effective system of staff supervision and observation. Staff identify areas where they can further develop their practice when watching recordings of their practice. With the manager, they identify training that will enhance their practice even further. This knowledge is shared between all staff to continuously raise the high standards even further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff make frequent evaluations of children's progress and achievements. This ensures any small gaps in children's learning are rapidly identified and significant targeted support is implemented. The management team reflects on the rapid progress made by different groups of children, to maintain the excellent support provided. Staff understand the importance of continually extending the extensive range of challenging experiences for children to fully support their rapid progress. Children's early writing skills are fully supported by staff. For example, children are asked to write all the names of the items they have put into a pretend potion and write their shopping lists before pretending to buy food at the shop. Staff extend children's learning and provide children with time to work out problems for themselves. For example, children pretend a pipe is no longer working to gather water outside. Staff give prompts to support their thinking and children find the solution of calling a plumber to fix the pipe.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children behave exceptionally well. They rapidly learn the skills of negotiating and taking turns without prompts from staff. Younger children are given clear guidance that helps develop their understanding. Children's independence is fully supported by staff. For example, they enjoy serving their own food at mealtimes and choosing and setting out the toys and equipment they would like to play with. They rapidly learn sign language to further their effective communication with staff. Staff promote excellent hygiene practices and children quickly learn to wash their hands before mealtimes and after outdoor play. They talk to children about food that is good for them and encourage them to try food from around the world. This helps support children's understanding about healthy eating.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those in receipt of funding, are making rapid progress from their starting points. Children delight in developing and extending their imaginative skills. For example, they gather a wide range of natural materials from outside. They delight in adding the materials to a large pot while pretending to make a potion that turns into a bow. Children are exceptionally well prepared for their next stage in learning and for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	131663
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	1084166
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	76
Number of children on roll	71
Name of registered person	The London Borough of Islington
Registered person unique reference number	RP905313
Date of previous inspection	19 August 2013
Telephone number	020 7527 4827

Archway Children's Centre registered in 2001. It employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including two with early years professional status and two with qualified teacher status. The children's centre opens from Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm all year round, for 49 weeks of the year, apart from two weeks over the summer and bank holidays. The children's centre provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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