

Norfolk Lodge Montessori Nursery

Norfolk Lodge, Dancers Hill Road, Barnet, Herts, EN5 4RP



Inspection date	12 January 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 use their exceptional knowledge of how children learn to plan highly challenging activities that children respond to very enthusiastically. They are exceedingly alert to children's needs and skilfully adapt activities to follow their interests. Children are always keen to join in and are deep in concentration while they play.
- Children are extremely well prepared for future learning. They make excellent progress in their social, personal, language and physical skills. Staff plan varied and rich learning experiences for all age groups and abilities.
- Staff work exceptionally well with parents to support children's learning and help them make excellent progress. They regularly update parents and fully involve them in their children's learning and development in the setting and at home.
- Children are visibly happy. Staff are immensely caring and establish extremely positive, warm relationships with children, supporting their emotional well-being superbly.
- The manager carefully reflects on the nursery's practice. She passionately seeks the views of others, including children and parents, to help her evaluate the quality of the setting. She actively acts on advice to make changes as needed and ensure that children's outcomes are outstanding.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance even further the experiences on offer for babies and younger children to explore and investigate while outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children as they engaged together in activities.
- 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 of the inspection 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 attendance registers.

Inspector

Anahita Aderianwalla

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff are highly vigilant and clearly understand their duty to protect children and ensure children are exceptionally well supervised and cared for. They are extremely confident and know how to recognise and report any signs that indicate a child may be at risk of harm. The manager monitors staff performance extremely well, for example, through regular and thorough supervisory arrangements. She carefully plans opportunities for staff to enhance their in-depth knowledge through targeted training sessions that help to raise their teaching to an outstanding level. The manager implements extremely successful systems to help her support children in making continual progress. Staff quickly recognise and significantly reduce any identified gaps in children's development to help them maintain their excellent rates of progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children are highly confident and motivated to explore in this very safe, welcoming, extremely stimulating and well-organised environment. Staff expertly adapt their teaching to cater for all children, including those who need more support with their communication skills. For instance, they skilfully and consistently use visual symbols and circle times to fully contribute towards children's excellent communication and language development. Staff provide children with many opportunities to investigate the outdoor area, although they recognise that on rare occasions these could be enhanced further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely independent and learn to use equipment skilfully for their age. For example, they very carefully and sensibly hold knives and forks to cut their food at mealtimes. They behave very responsibly and develop high levels of self-esteem while learning how to manage risks. Children have an exceptional range of opportunities to learn about themselves and others. Staff embrace the different backgrounds of families and involve parents in teaching children about other cultures. This helps children to develop a deep understanding of their uniqueness and supports high levels of mutual respect. The manager aims for the highest standards of care. For instance, she seeks advice from external agencies to embed exemplary healthy lifestyle practices and ensure children's welfare.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make superb progress from their starting points. They develop excellent creative skills. For example, children skilfully handle resources as they use pens to rub leaves and the bark of trees to create pictures. Babies move around curiously and explore the environment independently. Children are highly expressive and are skilled communicators. For instance, they confidently talk to staff about their imaginary play experiences as they pretend to run around trees looking for bears and use words, such as, 'splashing' and 'squelching' to describe going through the imaginary mud puddles.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496169
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1035717
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	139
Number of children on roll	162
Name of registered person	Norfolk Lodge School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901309
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01753 201122

Norfolk Lodge Montessori Nursery registered in 2016. The nursery employs 35 members of childcare staff. Of these, 31 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. There is one staff member with qualified teacher status. The nursery receives funding for free early education for three- and four-year-old children. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. The nursery also runs an additional activity scheme during the school holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery follows the Montessori ethos of teaching.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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