

Beckett House Montessori Nursery School

98 Richmond Avenue, London, N1 0LL



Inspection date

6 February 2018

Previous inspection date

5 May 2015

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

- The head teacher and manager are inspirational leaders. They demonstrate enthusiasm, passion and high expectations in pursuit of excellence in the care and education of children. Equally, all staff demonstrate incredible motivation and enthusiasm about the work they do with children and their families.
- Staff place high priority on enhancing children's communication and language skills. Conversations between staff and children are rich and full of questions and answers. Staff show a genuine interest in what children have to say.
- Staff offer an extremely inviting and homely environment. Children arrive excited and happy, and settle quickly. They benefit from the exceptionally calm, nurturing atmosphere and respond well to caring and sensitive interactions from their key person.
- Partnerships with parents are superb. The staff value the uniqueness of each individual family. Parents receive comprehensive information about their child's progress and next steps in learning. Parents get fully on board with current topics children enjoy.
- Staff are excellent role models and children's behaviour is exemplary. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement, and display high levels of self-esteem. They play cooperatively together and are extremely respectful of each other.
- Staff plan a rich and purposeful learning environment. There is a wealth of high-quality resources that constantly stimulates children's curiosity and fascination.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the use of information from tracking groups of children to help maintain their sustained rapid progress in 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 head teacher.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and head teacher. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Sharon Alleary

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have an excellent understanding of how to keep children safe. They know how to recognise signs which might indicate that a child is at risk of harm and how to report any concerns. The well-qualified, knowledgeable staff proactively seek out opportunities to further improve their skills and knowledge. For example, they recently attended training to help them understand the cognitive development of children. Self-evaluation is highly effective and is informed by the views of staff, parents and children. Action plans are firmly targeted on maintaining the outstanding experiences for all children. The head teacher understands the importance of monitoring information about the progress of groups of children and is considering how to build on this further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff's knowledge about their individual key child's interests and next steps is superb. They have a deep-rooted understanding of how children learn and how to bring out each child's potential, and help them to achieve the best they can. Staff sensitively intervene as children play to gently extend and challenge their learning to the highest level. Consequently, children are inspired learners and they persevere in activities. Staff plan extremely imaginative activities that thoroughly engage the children. They show awe and wonder as baby dinosaurs hatch from ice eggs. Staff bring stories alive with animated voices and genuine enthusiasm. Children can be seen copying staff, reading stories to each other and using different voices. This contributes to their excellent literacy skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The needs and well-being of the children are the central focus of everything that staff do and this is echoed in parents' comments. Children thoroughly enjoy daily visits to local green spaces for fresh air, which contributes exceptionally well to their health and well-being. Children demonstrate superb independence and self-care skills. Children participate in a wealth of activities delivered by external teachers, such as singing, yoga, ballet and drama. This helps them to meet other adults and learn an abundance of new skills.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make consistently high rates of progress, including those who speak English as an additional language. Children make superb progress in writing skills. They adeptly write their name and draw houses with intricate windows and doors. Children relish practising their physical skills, using a caterpillar tunnel, where they crawl through and jump off and onto safety mats. Children develop an excellent knowledge of letters and the sounds they represent, sounding out the letters of their names. Children have a deep understanding of the world and they make connections in their conversations. For example, children say, 'Volcanos and dinosaurs were around millions of years ago.' The skills children acquire equip them exceptionally well for their next stage of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	131668
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	1089438
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	23
Name of registered person	Beckett House Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP908404
Date of previous inspection	5 May 2015
Telephone number	0207 278 8824

Beckett House Montessori Nursery School registered in 1996. The nursery school employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 7, one at level 6, two at level 4 and one at level 3 (who also has a level 4 in special needs and is the school SENCO). The nursery school opens from Monday to Friday, for 46 weeks a year. Sessions are from 8.30am until 5.30pm. The nursery school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The setting is a Montessori accredited nursery school.

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