

Marlin Pre School And Day Nursery



Marlin Montessori Pre School, Brownlow Rooms, Station Approach, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1FQ

Inspection date	6 March 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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

- The staff monitor children's progress well with effective observation, assessment and planning procedures. They successfully identify any gaps in children's learning and take prompt action to address them. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- The management team recognises the importance of reflective practice and make continual improvements to the nursery. There is a clear direction for future developments and staff work well as a team.
- Staff work in effective partnership with parents and others to meet children's individual needs and support their development well. Close links with school make a significant contribution to children being emotionally ready for their move on to school.
- Children clearly enjoy attending the nursery. They arrive happy and greet the staff who are warm and caring. Children develop very strong emotional attachments with their key person.
- Staff provide a stimulating and interesting environment with a wide range of imaginative resources and experiences. This helps children to lead their own learning. Furthermore, staff interact positively and enthusiastically with children. This encourages them to enjoy learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff development does not always focus fully on raising staff's teaching skills, so that children receive even higher levels of challenge in their play and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen systems for staff development and focus on improving their knowledge of expert teaching to help them provide children with even further challenge in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the registered person, manager, staff and parents.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed children and staff in their indoor activities.
- The inspector checked required documentation, including qualification certificates and evidence of staff suitability.

Inspector

Anahita Aderianwalla

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management and staff team have a good understanding of their role and responsibility to safeguard children's welfare. The management team monitors the ongoing suitability of staff well. The staff have a strong understanding of their responsibility to protect children from harm and neglect. Children's safety is well considered throughout the nursery. Staff take prompt action to ensure that any potential hazards are minimised. The management team offers staff regular supervisory meetings. Leaders use additional funding well to enhance outcomes for children. For example, more investigative resources have been added during visits to the local area, such as binoculars, magnifying glasses and clip boards to help further children's enjoyment and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are skilful in their interactions with children and support individual development well. Children are keen to join in activities and they enjoy learning. Staff support and develop children's literacy skills very well. For example, staff sound out letters that children find in the sand and then support them to repeat sounds and recognise letters in their name. Children concentrate well, listen to staff and copy actions. Staff encourage children's mathematical understanding well in play. For example, children group different sized cars and work out, which ones fit in the spaces in the toy garage, staff encourage them to count each one and use words, such as, 'big, small, and medium sized'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show that they feel secure as they settle well and are familiar with the routines. Staff praise and encourage children for their effort and achievement, such as when they thank children for 'great tidying and good teamwork'. Children are well behaved and show a clear understanding of the rules and good behaviour, which help to keep them safe. For instance, children know to look for moving cars when crossing roads on daily outings to prevent accidents. Children benefit from regular exercise and walks to the local area, such as going on nature walks, climbing large equipment in the parks and running on the fields to see the local castle.

Outcomes for children are good

Children demonstrate motivation and confidence as they play. This contributes to the good progress they make in their learning. This includes children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, children who speak English as an additional language and those for whom the nursery receives additional funding. Young children enjoy imaginary play experiences, they create a 'fire engine' with chairs and pretend to put out fires. Older children relish the opportunity to be creative and investigate shredded paper, cut small squares using scissors and glue them as they decorate daffodils they have drawn after a nature walk. Children are well prepared for their next stages in learning and eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496302
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1036306
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	25
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Barad Childcare Services Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP901370
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01442 866290

Marlin Pre School and Day Nursery re-registered in 2016. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. All but one all hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. The setting opens Monday to Thursday, sessions are from 8am until 6pm and Friday sessions are from 8am until 3pm, all year round, except for two weeks at Christmas. The nursery provides funded early education three- and four-year-old children.

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