Leverstock Green Playgroup

Village Hall, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP3 8QG

Inspection date	5 October 2018
Previous inspection date	4 November 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	**This inspection:**	**Outstanding**	**1**
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is outstanding

- The key-person system is outstanding. Staff successfully work with parents to promote children's needs to ensure that all children are emotionally secure. Children are visibly happy and establish impressive relationships with staff and peers.
- The manager and staff work exceptionally closely to monitor children's progress. They conduct highly effective observations and assessments of children's skills and successfully identify their next steps in learning. Children make excellent progress.
- Staff expertly follow children's interests and learning needs when planning activities. Children enjoy an extremely wide range of highly stimulating and challenging activities across all areas of learning. They are highly motivated and eager to learn.
- The manager and staff engage parents thoroughly in their child's development. They consistently share ideas for activities and information about children's progress. Children benefit from superbly consistent support to their learning.
- Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities thrive in this highly stimulating environment. They fully benefit from the staff's expert and specialist knowledge. All children's needs are exceptionally met and they flourish.
- Staff's utmost priority is to keep children safe. They thoroughly risk assess the premises and consistently support children in developing safety awareness.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to identify training needs for staff to help maintain the already outstanding standards of teaching and 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 completed observations of activities with the playgroup manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the playgroup manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the playgroup's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability, training and qualifications of staff.
- The inspector held discussions with staff and interacted with children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views through written feedback.

Inspector
Karinna Hemerling

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Qualified staff attend training to further develop their excellent knowledge of their role in safeguarding children. They are highly vigilant to the signs of abuse and know the steps to make referrals of concerns. The manager meticulously checks staff's suitability and leads robust supervision meetings to evaluate their teaching, safeguarding practice and identify training needs. She is highly dedicated and inspires staff. The team strives for excellence and plans on attending even further training to maintain the excellent teaching and learning. The manager astutely engages staff, parents and the local authority in the innovative reflective practice. This accurately helps to build upon the outstanding provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Teaching is consistently outstanding. Qualified staff are highly responsive to children's learning needs and provide them with an extremely wide range of exciting activities. For example, children concentrate extremely well during a 'sound hunt' and use a tick list to mark the sounds they hear. They are highly motivated to learn and investigate. Staff create exceptionally stimulating play areas for children. For example, children benefit from innovative ways to learn mathematical skills. They are expertly challenged to count, add and take away conkers as they learn to use different scales. Staff exploit children's natural curiosity and use all opportunities to promote their impressive learning. All children make exceptional progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children show increasingly high levels of confidence and independence. They have a very comprehensive understanding of their boundaries and develop a positive sense of self-esteem. Children's behaviour is exceptional. Staff are exceptional role models and highly focused on promoting children's social skills. Children are developing an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles. They enjoy nutritious snacks and have plenty of opportunities to develop their physical skills and to play outdoors. Children are extremely kind and considerate towards others. They gain wonderful first-hand opportunities to expand their understanding of people, families and communities.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children achieve a tremendous foundation for their future learning, including those who are learning English and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children are extremely creative when initiating their own play. For example, they are enthusiastic during storytelling and show exceptional imagination as they play their favourite characters, select resources and retell the story. The manager and staff ensure appropriate funding is used to provide children with specialist support. All children are extremely well prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	129361
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063510
Type of provision	Sessional day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	42
Name of registered person	Leverstock Green Playgroup Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP523452
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2015
Telephone number	01442266270

Leverstock Green Playgroup registered in 1974. The playgroup employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, seven hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and 3. The playgroup opens from Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am to midday and from 12.30 to 2.30pm, a lunch club is offered from midday until 12.30pm. The playgroup provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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