

Agar Children Centre

Agar Childrens Centre, Wrotham Road, LONDON NW1 9SU



Inspection date	8 March 2019
Previous inspection date	9 June 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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 manager effectively monitors children's progress. This helps ensure that groups of children who have identified needs are targeted and appropriate interventions are secured so that children receive the support they need.
- Children have continuous daily opportunities for outdoor play and learning. Staff skilfully provide an outdoor curriculum that encourages children to take risks and explore the natural world. This supports children's understanding of the importance of an active lifestyle.
- Leaders successfully reflect upon practice and see what is working and what is not. They know what they need to do to improve and to maintain a quality provision.
- Staff work effectively with specialist professionals to support children develop further. They help staff to use particular teaching techniques and strategies to encourage children's learning. Leaders use additional funding well to help narrow gaps in children's outcomes.
- Although staff have established effective working relationships with parents overall, there are still some inconsistencies in keeping parents up to date, involved and informed about all aspects of nursery life that affect them.
- Staff do not consistently organise the day to meet the needs of all children, particularly those who are more able.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop further ways to engage parents and keep them updated about issues that affect them at the nursery
- continue to review the planning and organisation of the day to meet all children's needs even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this had on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including planning and children's learning and assessment records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of staff working with the children and the provider's improvement plans.

Inspector

Caroline Preston

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are clear about the indicators of abuse and what procedures to follow to ensure children are safe from harm. Procedures for recruitment, induction and monitoring of staff are good. Staff complete training to help build on their current skills and improve outcomes for children. For instance, staff support children with additional needs by developing natural and spontaneous communication using visually based and highly motivating activities. Staff carry out thorough risk assessments and the environment is safe. Staff are well deployed and ratios are maintained. Leaders inform Ofsted of any significant events that have occurred and put appropriate steps in place so that these do not happen again.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff carry out regular observations and assessments and know the children well. They use this information to plan for children's next steps in learning. Staff make important and accurate decisions about the resources they use. For example, high-quality resources that are inviting and exciting help children to learn at their individual levels. The environment is well planned and staff have adopted a new way of supporting children. For instance, reacting to children's interests in the moment they explore play. However, this teaching is in its infancy and staff are assessing ways to improve how they work with children, so that they make the most of their learning. Staff encourage children to develop their physical development, freedom and movement well. For example, children enjoy climbing and riding wheeled toys, which helps build their confidence and well-being. Staff encourage children's literacy skills effectively. For example, children build a wide vocabulary through listening and talking. Staff support children who are non-verbal to communicate using signs and picture cards. Staff share books with children and repeat words to help them become familiar with different sounds and recognise letters and words.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled and enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff encourage the development of positive behaviour and they praise and encourage children to help build their self-esteem and confidence. Children are independent and enjoy managing their own needs. Staff promote children awareness of wider society. For example, children join in with celebrations of different cultural festivals. Children learn about the importance of eating healthy as they enjoy nutritious meals.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for their next stage in learning and their move on to school, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children develop their mathematical skills as they explore, sort, compare, count, calculate and describe. They are familiar with songs and rhymes and confidently use musical instruments during music sessions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY384715
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	10099479
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	66
Number of children on roll	45
Name of registered person	London Borough of Camden
Registered person unique reference number	RP517467
Date of previous inspection	9 June 2016
Telephone number	02079744677

Agar Children Centre registered in 2008 and is situated in the London Borough of Camden. The setting opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm all year round, except for Christmas and bank holidays. The setting provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years. A team of 13 members of staff is employed to work with the children. All staff hold early years qualifications between levels 3 and 6.

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