

Inspection of Linden Children's Centre Nursery

86-92 Rectory Road, LONDON N16 7SH

Inspection date: 9 December 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children feel emotionally safe and secure. They behave well and play cooperatively together. Staff have high expectations of children's learning. For example, children learn to self-register when they arrive at the setting. Staff are sensitive to the needs of each child and provide specific activities to support children's learning and development. Staff support children to develop their language skills effectively. Children borrow books from the library and take these home to share with their parents. Children keenly explore a wide range of resources in the outdoors. They dig and fill buckets with mud and say they have found 'treasure', and explore a worm and say it is 'wiggly' and 'shiny'. However, staff do not deploy themselves well enough during children's play to fully support their learning. Staff give children time to have a go, particularly when putting on their coats, taking off their shoes or washing their hands before lunch. This helps to ensure that children have the self-help skills needed in preparation for school. Staff hold discussions with children and allow them enough time to think before responding to questions. For instance, when staff discuss the benefits of wearing sunglasses, children respond and ask about the differences between prescription glasses.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The management team and staff provide children with a well-planned curriculum overall. They use effective systems to assess children's progress. They consider children's individual interests and next steps in learning when planning activities. Managers monitor the quality of staff's observations and assessments. Consequently, all children make good progress, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, those who speak English with as an additional language and those who are in receipt of funded early education. Swift action is taken to address any gaps in children's learning.
- Staff provide a range of activities that encourage learning in all areas of development. Staff interactions with children are positive and, overall, used well to motivate children to join in and have a go. Babies enjoy looking at books and singing nursery rhymes. Staff ask meaningful questions to test children's understanding. They provide new words to build on children's current vocabulary. For example, younger children explore sea animals and use words such as 'octopus'. Older children look through books then narrate their own stories.
- Staff promote positive behaviour. They reinforce the rules and give children lots of praise for their achievements, helping to raise their self-esteem. Staff take time to explain to children what is expected of them. Children behave well.
- Children relish playing outdoors, where they have many opportunities to develop their physical and literacy skills. Staff repeat, model and extend children's vocabulary. When all ages of children play outside together, they learn how to

share and take turns with others. They confidently use equipment such as tricycles and climbing frames, as well as large chalk to make marks. Additionally, activities such as weekly visits to the forest school further support children's physical and literacy development. Children actively take risks in their play. They play tug of war and jump over a large rope. However, at times, staff do not deploy themselves outside effectively enough to support children's learning.

- The management team and staff form good relationships with parents. They share information with them about their children's development. Staff gain information from parents on children's early experiences and what they can already do when they start to attend nursery. This helps staff to identify children's starting points in learning and look for ways to build on their experiences.
- The management team carries out regular staff supervision sessions and provides staff with coaching to improve their personal effectiveness. As a result, teaching is good. Staff use their 'sign-along' training to help extend children's communication skills well.
- Parents speak positively about the nursery and staff. They feel that their children are safe and cared for well. For instance, they say that they have peace of mind when at work. Staff help parents to understand their children's development and how they can support learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team and staff keep their safeguarding training updated. They have a secure understanding of how to keep children safe. They understand the signs and symptoms of abuse and understand wider safeguarding issues. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child in their care. The management team has put effective recruitment procedures in place. Rigorous checks are used to ensure that only those suitable to work with children are able to do so. Staff follow comprehensive procedures with regard to the recording of accidents.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve the deployment of staff to support children better when they are in the garden.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY450405
Local authority	Hackney
Inspection number	10128521
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	1 to 4
Total number of places	83
Number of children on roll	66
Name of registered person	London Borough of Hackney
Registered person unique reference number	RP531769
Telephone number	020 7254 9939
Date of previous inspection	19 June 2014

Information about this early years setting

Linden Children's Centre Nursery registered in 1986 and re-registered in 2012 due to a change in ownership. It is located in Stoke Newington, in the London Borough of Hackney. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.45am to 6pm, for 49 weeks of the year. It receives funding for the provision of free early years education for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The nursery employs 17 staff, all of whom hold recognised childcare qualifications at level 3 and above. The head of the children's centre holds a qualification at level 7. A senior children's centre officer leads the nursery staff in the delivery of the educational programmes.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Pauline Valentine-Coker

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspector took part in a 'learning walk' to discuss the approach to early education.
- The inspector, manager and early years teacher carried out a joint observation and discussed children's learning in the setting.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including evidence of staff suitability checks and qualifications.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children and held a meeting with the provider, manager and early years teacher.

We carried out this inspection 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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