

# Inspection of Helena's Nursery

Hasmonean High School Girls Section, Page Street, London NW7 2EU

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Inspection date: 21 January 2020

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<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
The quality of education	<b>Good</b>
Behaviour and attitudes	<b>Good</b>
Personal development	<b>Good</b>
Leadership and management	<b>Good</b>
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

## **What is it like to attend this early years setting?**

### **The provision is good**

Children enjoy their time at this friendly and warm nursery. They form positive bonds with the caring staff and, overall, engage busily in a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable experiences. For example, older children eagerly bake biscuits and younger children enjoy a woodland walk. Children have formed strong bonds with staff. An effective key-person system helps children feel safe and secure at nursery. They happily leave parents at the door and are eager to join in with activities. There are good plans in place to help children move from the baby room to the main nursery. This successfully supports children's well-being. Children are well behaved. They are beginning to understand about boundaries and rules. They share and take turns well. They are becoming independent and capable of meeting their own personal needs. Older children are gaining skills and becoming ready for starting school. Children spent plenty of time outside building on their physical skills. They are encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle. Overall, staff demonstrate a good understanding of how children learn and develop. They provide an abundance of opportunities to enhance children's communication and language skills, such as through books, stories, songs and rhymes. Children listen intently and respond positively to adults and each other. However, on occasion staff do not recognise when opportunities arise to extend children's learning further.

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

- The manager and her team work well together to ensure the smooth running of the nursery. They have a clear vision for the future of the nursery and are ambitious for all children. However, a more robust evaluation of the quality of the nursery would build on the quality of the nursery even further.
- Staff complete regular observations and assessments of children's development. They have a clear picture of individual children's progress and work closely with parents to support children's learning at home.
- Staff know children well and know how to support their learning and development. They provide purposeful activities that reflect children's emerging interests and help them to build on what they already know. However, at times staff miss opportunities to build further on children's thinking skills by introducing challenge to their play.
- Parents provide highly positive feedback on how well their children enjoy attending the nursery. They comment that children often talk about the nursery and staff when they are at home. Parents state they are happy with the service they receive and value the secure, loving relationships which children have built with staff. Staff communicate regularly with parents about their children's care and learning. They share information about children's progress and interests. This ensures that parents feel well informed about their children's learning and

development.

- Staff are effective at supporting children's communication and social skills. Staff ask questions, talk about what children are doing and build on their vocabulary. Early literacy skills are well supported. Younger children are beginning to have favourite songs and join in with actions, and older children enjoys stories and books.
- Children demonstrate good levels of confidence and self-assurance. For example, they help themselves to lunch and independently put on their coats and shoes. They enjoy nutritious and well-balanced meals.
- Children are active and are encouraged to develop healthy lifestyles. They have good opportunities to build their physical skills. Staff working with babies ensure they have plenty of space to crawl, stand and step, both inside and outside. Children learn what their bodies can do as they run, jump and enjoy 'stretch and grow' sessions. There are ample opportunities for children to play outside. They play in the garden and explore wooded areas with joy. Staff support children's health and well-being effectively.
- The senior management team meets with staff regularly and provides effective support to promote their professional development. They ensure that staff workloads are manageable. Staff report that they enjoy their work. They access a good range of training opportunities, and are encouraged to use their new knowledge to develop their teaching skills.

## **Safeguarding**

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The management team is committed to ensuring that staff have a secure knowledge of their role to safeguard children. The designated lead and staff receive regular training and updates and know the appropriate procedures to follow if they need to take action. This includes knowledge of wider safeguarding concerns, such as female genital mutilation and the 'Prevent' duty. The team has robust recruitment procedures to check that staff are suitably vetted to work with children. Staff deployment is managed well and supports children's safety effectively.

## **What does the setting need to do to improve?**

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

- build on how children are challenged during activities, to develop on their existing knowledge and skills
- strengthen the evaluation of the nursery and include the voices of parents and children more effectively

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY550948
<b>Local authority</b>	Barnet
<b>Inspection number</b>	10133713
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 to 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	50
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	57
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Helena's Nursery Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP550947
<b>Telephone number</b>	02087323636
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	Not applicable

## Information about this early years setting

Helena's Nursery opened in 2017. It is located in Mill Hill, in the London borough of Barnet. It operates Monday to Thursday, 8am to 6pm, and on Fridays 8am until 2pm, throughout the year. The nursery will be closed for all Jewish holidays. The provider receives funding to offer free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 18 staff, 14 of whom hold relevant qualifications, ranging from level 1 to level 6.

## Information about this inspection

### Inspector

Anna Hindhaugh-Feldman

### Inspection activities

- Parents shared their views about the setting in writing and verbally, and these were taken into consideration.
- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager and deputy manager to learn about the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector jointly observed children's play with the deputy manager and discussed children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children during the inspection.

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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