

Inspection of Little Learners Nursery

United Reformed Church, East Lane, WEMBLEY, Middlesex HA9 7NN

Inspection date: 10 February 2022

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are warmly greeted by caring and nurturing staff, who know them very well. They excitedly enter the nursery in anticipation of their day. Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this stimulating nursery. Their behaviour is exceptional. They fully understand what is expected of them and show excellent independence from a young age. As a result, children feel safe and secure. Children have a deep level of respect and care for each other and adults. For example, children tidy their work area after use, ready for their friends to use. Children have excellent manners and are gently reminded by staff when they forget to use them. They take turns and help each other in their learning.

Experienced and highly qualified staff have high expectations of children and plan a well-balanced curriculum that builds well on what children already know and can do. Children are inquisitive and explore the environment with enthusiasm. They explore a wide variety of interesting resources that are used imaginatively and creatively. Children are confident to ask questions about what they do not know. For example, they ask staff what a walrus eats and where they live.

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

- Children are highly motivated and eager to join in. Staff encourage children to keep trying when they find something difficult. They praise children frequently for their persistence. Consequently, children are extremely proud of their achievements. Staff are exceptionally skilled at enabling children's independence skills. For example, at lunchtime, children pour their own water into cups. They rinse their own plates and cutlery once lunch is finished.
- The key-person system is well established. Staff regularly share with managers the excellent progress that children are making. Staff are highly dedicated and enthusiastic, always putting children first.
- Children consistently show positive behaviour. If a minor conflict occurs, children resolve it quickly and staff offer support to help them recognise how it makes the children feel.
- The manager and staff have created a wonderfully inviting and stimulating environment. They carefully consider and choose the type of resources and how these are presented to the children. Children show high levels of curiosity, imagination and a sense of wonder in their learning. For example, children try to break ice moulds to reveal animals that live in the North Pole.
- The curriculum for communication and language is highly effective. Staff build on the words children already know. They model new words as they describe what they are doing. Children and staff enjoy sharing songs and stories together. As a result, children are making exceptional progress in their speaking and listening skills.

- Children have many opportunities to develop their physical skills. They climb onto a small climbing frame and push themselves around the garden in wheeled vehicles. Furthermore, children develop their small-muscle skills as they manipulate whisks and spoons in the mud kitchen.
- Staff quickly identify where children need support and guidance. They actively seek support and work closely with other agencies. This means that all children, and specifically those with special educational needs, are accessing the support they need to make the best start in life.
- Staff use every moment as an opportunity for learning. They encourage children to count and recognise amounts and quantities. Staff question children about the size, position and order of objects. Children are using mathematical language and understanding well in their play.
- The manager has an excellent knowledge of her role and individual responsibilities and is well supported by her extended team. Staff keep their professional knowledge up to date by completing a number of courses. Together, they have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the nursery and are always striving for continuous improvement.
- Partnership with parents is exceptional. Parents comment very favourably about the nursery and staff. Parents are kept up to date with regular meetings on their child's development and how they are progressing.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. They have a secure knowledge of safeguarding procedures and fully understand what to do if they have a concern about a child's welfare, another member of staff, or the manager. The play environments inside and outside are securely maintained. Staff are up to date with paediatric first-aid and safeguarding training. A rigorous recruitment procedure and carefully planned supervision ensure staff's initial and ongoing suitability to work with children. Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have been proactive in maintaining regular contact with families.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY450440
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	10128523
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	72
Name of registered person	Little Learners Montessori Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531748
Telephone number	0208 904 1001
Date of previous inspection	26 April 2013

Information about this early years setting

Little Learners Nursery re-registered in 2012 and is run by a private provider. It operates from the United Reformed church hall in Wembley, in the London Borough of Brent. The group has the use of three rooms and there is a secure garden for outdoor play. Little Learners Nursery is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm during school term times. There are 10 staff working with the children, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications. The area manager holds early years professional status. The group follows the Montessori philosophy of teaching. The setting receives early education funding for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Karren Thompson

Inspection activities

- This was the first inspection the nursery has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together to understand how the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector made observations throughout the inspection of children's experiences in the nursery.
- Joint observations were carried out by the inspector and the manager.
- Children spoke to the inspector about their experiences in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents and staff at appropriate times 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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