

Inspection of Hornsey Road Childrens Centre Nursery

HORNSEY ROAD CHILDRENS CENTRE, 8 Tiltman Place, LONDON, Islington N7 7EN

Inspection date: 23 June 2022

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are happy and secure at this welcoming nursery. They are confident to part from their parents and carers when they arrive, and quickly settle down to eat breakfast or play. Children are warmly greeted by the friendly staff. They develop secure emotional bonds, which helps them to feel safe. Children follow familiar routines, which help them to understand what is expected of them. For instance, they know they must wash their hands before they eat. However, some staff members forget to wash their own hands before handling food. Therefore, messages for children about good hygiene are sometimes inconsistent.

Children respond positively to staff's high expectations. They behave well and display independence as they choose from the activities and resources. These reflect children's current interests. Staff help children to stay interested and motivated to learn. For example, toddlers are captivated as they examine insects using magnifying glasses. Children relish the opportunities to read with staff and develop a real love of books. They sit with staff and discuss in depth the characters and storylines. Children use a broad range of vocabulary as they recall and retell the events from their favourite stories. They demonstrate their vivid imaginations as they use their own ideas to create narratives.

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

- The nursery has been through a period of instability recently, with several changes of manager in a short space of time, leading to inconsistencies in the support for staff. However, a new manager has been appointed and she has high aspirations for the nursery. She has identified areas for development and supported staff to make positive changes. For example, staff have introduced 'self-regulation areas' for toddlers and older children. These are stocked with resources to help children to recognise and explore their feelings and emotions.
- Overall, parents are happy with the provision and say that their children benefit from attending. However, relationships with some parents have deteriorated, because of poor communication under previous managers. There are plans in place to help strengthen partnerships, such as regular coffee mornings for parents. However, the arrangements for sharing information about children's learning need to be improved, to provide more continuity between nursery and home.
- Generally, staff understand their roles and implement nursery procedures, to help keep children healthy and safe. For instance, staff know about children's dietary needs and ensure that they are given foods which are safe and suitable. However, some staff do not follow the nursery's established hygiene routines when serving food to children. Furthermore, the information about children's medication is poorly organised. In some cases, it is unclear as to whether

parents have been informed when staff have administered medication to children. However, this is more of an administrative oversight, which has not had an impact on children's safety and managers recognise what they need to do to put this right.

- Children enjoy a broad and interesting curriculum. They show a genuine enthusiasm for learning and make good progress. The support for children with special educational need and/or disabilities (SEND) is a strength. Staff provide targeted support, to help to develop children's communication, attention and listening. The provider is proactive and seeks funding, so that children can attend more regularly. This helps them to consolidate their learning.
- Staff provide a language-rich environment. They support children's communication skills through a range of effective strategies, such as using visual displays of rules, to support children's understanding. Children thoroughly enjoy the opportunities to talk, sing and listen to stories. Consequently, all children, including those with SEND and those who speak English as an additional language, progress rapidly with their language skills.
- Children enjoy being active in the nursery gardens and the indoor soft-play area. Older children have continuous access to their garden, which has a good range of large apparatus. These provide physical challenges, to help children exercise their large-muscle movements. However, there are fewer opportunities for babies and toddlers to enjoy vigorous play. Therefore, they sometimes explore their physical skills in less safe ways, such as by climbing onto nursery furniture.
- Children are inquisitive learners and enjoy solving problems. Older children demonstrate this when they discover that the play dough has become too sticky. They confidently put forward their suggestions about what to add and how this will change the dough. Children have great fun discovering the new textures and colours.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff promote children's safety effectively. Staff understand how to identify signs of abuse and risks to children's welfare, such as the impact of neglect or domestic violence. They are vigilant and understand how to raise concerns. The manager knows how to take swift action to protect children or deal with allegations against staff. Staff assess potential risks in the environment to remove or reduce hazards. They teach children how to keep themselves safe. The provider carries out checks on staff, to help ensure that they are suitable to work with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
strengthen the systems for staff training and supervision, to ensure that staff have a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities, particularly relating to health and safety	29/07/2022
ensure that all staff serving food to children have appropriate training and understand how to maintain good hygiene when handling food	29/07/2022
train staff to implement the nursery's policy for administering medications, including keeping accurate records and ensuring that parents are notified each time children are given medication.	29/07/2022

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

- strengthen the two-way communication with parents, to promote more consistency in children's learning between home and nursery
- build on the opportunities for babies and younger children to practise and develop their large-muscle movements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2507218
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	10245244
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	48
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP517539
Telephone number	020 7561 5273
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Hornsey Road Childrens Centre Nursery registered in 2018. It is situated in the London Borough of Islington. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The nursery employs 15 staff to work with children. All staff hold relevant childcare qualifications. The manager holds early years teacher status and other staff are qualified from level 7 to level 2. The nursery provides early funded education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Crawford

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken this into account in her evaluation of the provider.
- The manager showed the inspector around the nursery premises. She explained how staff organise the environment and learning programmes for children.
- The inspector observed activities and interactions between children and staff, to evaluate the quality of the education. This included joint observations with the manager.
- Parents, staff and children shared their views and experiences with the inspector at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector met with the manager and the provider to discuss leadership issues, such as the recruitment, training and support for staff. They reviewed a range of documents, including staff's suitability checks and first-aid certificates.

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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