

Inspection of MEplace

MEplace Nursery, Bagel Factory Central, Unit 2, 17, Rothbury Rd, London, Greater London E9 5EN

Inspection date: 25 October 2022

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and behave well in this nurturing, home-from-home environment. Staff form strong bonds with children. Staff offer cuddles and reassure children who are upset. They help them to settle quickly and feel safe and secure. There is a strong focus on children's emotional well-being. For example, during circle time, children select emotion stones and discuss how they feel. Staff support children who are struggling with their feelings. They provide a safe space to talk, and children can hold 'Gentle George teddy bear' for additional comfort.

Staff plan in the moment, providing a topic-based approach. Staff know children well and follow their interests. They know what they can do and develop clear plans for their next steps. There is a strong focus on mindfulness and physical development. Children have opportunities to engage in a range of activities, including yoga. Children go to the park daily and are offered plant-based healthy options. This teaches the children the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle, in body and in mind. Babies have sensory opportunities. For example, they use shaving foam to find arctic animals in the snow. Staff encourage turn taking, modelling behaviour expectations. Babies clap their hands in the foam to make it snow. This develops children's creative skills.

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

- Children understand what makes them distinct and appreciate each other's differences. Children learn about people who have made a positive contribution to society, explore the countries they are from and celebrate music from around the world. Babies use mirrors to look at themselves. Staff discuss their unique features and differences. Older children engage in activities to celebrate Black History Month. This helps children to appreciate the diverse world in which they live.
- There is a strong focus on promoting a love of reading. There is a quiet, cosy reading corner, with a wide range of different books, that motivates children to read. Children self-select books and retell the story to their teachers.
- There are many opportunities to develop children's mark making and fine motor development. For example, babies use spoons to fill buckets and cake trays with sand. Older children use scissors to cut strips in paper. There are painting and drawing opportunities throughout. This supports children's next steps in writing.
- Children enjoy free choice and playing with their friends. Overall, staff support them well. However, at times, staff need to take more time to listen, observe and allow children time to respond to their questions. This would allow children time to think and share their ideas.
- Children demonstrate their positive attitudes to learning. For example, children enthusiastically sing and dance to a butterfly song. Staff model the actions and

rhyming words of the butterfly as he flies 'high in the sky' and 'lands quick on a stick'. Children listen intently and follow the actions with the adults and each other. Children behave very well.

- There are many opportunities throughout the nursery for children to develop mathematical skills. For example, children are encouraged to count coloured pom-poms in numbered cups using tweezers. Staff begin to embed concrete strategies for addition and subtraction and use language of 'more', 'less', and 'total'. For instance, staff ask children, 'how many do you have in total?' and 'how many are left if we take two out?'
- Parents are happy with the nursery. They receive regular communication from staff. They feel that the managers listen to their feedback and respond accordingly. Parents are supported well by staff, who offer ideas on how to help their children learn at home.
- Leaders show passion for the nursery's values. They recognise staff's strengths and support them with training opportunities. Staff have regular supervision meetings and are given 'growth days' to reflect on their practice.
- The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) uses her knowledge to support children well. She helps staff to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). In addition, she communicates with staff and parents to provide updates. However, there is scope to build firmer links with other professionals in order to set specific targets and access earlier help for children with speech and language difficulties.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Regular risk assessments are carried out to ensure children can safely access all areas of the nursery. Risk assessments are constantly reviewed, and staff are regularly trained in health and safety. There are robust outing procedures in place. Children wear high-visibility jackets. Staff carry children's contact details and first-aid equipment. Accidents and incidents are effectively recorded and reported. Staff understand the signs of when a child may be at risk of abuse. There are clear procedures in place for reporting this. Staff are aware of how to report an allegation against a member of staff.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff further in developing secure links with other professionals to achieve earlier intervention for children who require additional support
- allow children more time to respond when asking questions, to help them share their ideas.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2619274
Local authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	10259349
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 at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	95
Number of children on roll	62
Name of registered person	ME PLACE LIMITED
Registered person unique reference number	2619272
Telephone number	07541683354
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

MEplace registered in 2020. The nursery is located in Hackney Wick, in the London Borough of Hackney. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6.30pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 11 hold appropriate early years qualifications. Six members of staff hold qualified teacher status, three hold a level 6, one a level 5 and one a level 3. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Penny Harman

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The manager and inspector conducted a learning walk together and discussed how the curriculum has been implemented and the impact that this had on children's learning.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to a range of staff and the manager about how the setting meets the needs of all learners, including those with SEND.
- The inspector observed interactions between the staff and children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a member of staff with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to a range of staff about safeguarding policies and procedures.
- The manager provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- The inspector spoke with the SENCo at the setting.

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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