

Little Elms Montessori Nursery



Elm Court Community Centre, 363 Mutton Lane, POTTERS BAR, Hertfordshire, EN6 3BP

Inspection date	29 September 2016
Previous inspection date	22 January 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The inspirational leadership team evaluates the provision in a highly effective manner. They provide excellent support, coaching and training to staff to maintain extremely successful and consistently high-quality teaching throughout the nursery. All children make excellent and sustained progress.
- Well-qualified staff are extremely skilled at identifying the need for early intervention through their detailed observations of children. They work very effectively with parents and other professionals to ensure the most appropriate support is provided for all children.
- Children greatly benefit from having free access to exciting and challenging indoor and outdoor learning areas. They spend a lot of time playing outdoors and staff are highly skilled at making sure their learning and development are fully supported as they do so.
- The quality of teaching is exceptional. Staff are astutely aware of every child's interests and where they need to challenge their learning and development next. They provide play and learning opportunities that excite and motivate children to learn. Parents are extremely pleased with the excellent progress their children are making.
- An extremely well-established key-person system helps children to quickly form positive relationships with staff and their peers. New children settle into the nursery exceptionally well. The high staff-to-child ratio provides staff with additional time to nurture and meet children's individual needs very effectively.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to review and revise the way that excellent assessment information is used and evaluate the impact that any changes made have on the quality of teaching and children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed staff's interactions with children across all ages, both inside and outside. She spoke to staff about children's learning and how they assess their progress.
- The inspector completed observations and evaluated her findings with managers.
- The inspector held meetings with the nursery managers and looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

Inspector

Beverley Devlin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The management team and staff have a very strong understanding of child protection procedures and their responsibility to report concerns. A detailed induction programme provides excellent support and sets very high standards for all staff. Staff are exceptionally well supported to further extend their professional development through high-quality training and coaching. This contributes effectively to improving excellent outcomes for children. The manager has plans in place to further extend the way in which staff use assessment information to plan for children's next steps in learning. The managers have highly effective systems in place to monitor the work of staff. These include the analysis of progress made by all children and regular observations of teaching and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff expertly motivate children and have extremely ambitious expectations of what children can achieve. They have an excellent knowledge of children's individual's abilities. They use very thorough assessment systems, which include taking the information gained from parents into account, to expertly identify children's next steps in learning. Children's speaking and listening skills are extremely well promoted. Staff are very skilled in teaching new vocabulary and modelling language. They use a range of high-quality visual prompts to encourage all children to develop their communication and language skills. Staff skilfully help children to take ownership of their learning through their excellent questioning and sensitive interventions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thrive in the nurturing bonds they form with familiar staff who know them exceedingly well. There are excellent arrangements to fully support children as they develop and move between rooms, so that they feel extremely safe and secure. Children build strong friendships and play exceptionally well together. Parents speak approvingly of the nursery, stating that staff are caring and their children are safe, happy and settled. Children's behaviour is exemplary. Caring and calm staff are patient, provide consistent encouragement and praise children's achievements enthusiastically. Children learn about the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle. For example, they enjoy healthy snacks and a wide range of opportunities outdoors and regular physical challenges, including yoga.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make outstanding progress from their starting points and are extremely well prepared to gain the skills for their future learning and school. Children communicate their ideas exceptionally well and with great confidence. Staff support children's mathematical development well. For example, older children discuss the meaning of symmetrical as they consider parallel images, shapes and colour. Children develop small muscle and coordination skills exceptionally well in preparation for pre-writing. For example, toddlers remain completely focused as they choose from a wide range of activities where they can practise threading, placing, sorting and balancing objects with great skill, patience and dexterity.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY270613
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1064475
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Little Elms Montessori Nursery Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP521691
Date of previous inspection	22 January 2013
Telephone number	01707 662436

Little Elms Montessori Nursery was registered in 2004. The nursery employs 14 members of staff, including the managers. Of these, all hold appropriate early years qualifications, including one member of staff who holds early years professional status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday, term time only. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery follows the Montessori ethos.

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