

The Little Learners Montessori Watford

62-68 Merton Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD18 0WL



Inspection date	17 October 2018
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is outstanding

- The managers lead a high-quality culture of reflective practice. They expertly engage with staff, parents and external professionals to evaluate areas for improvement and continuously boost the exceptional services provided for children.
- Staff have developed unique strategies to work with parents to provide children with continuous support. Parents highly praise staff's exceptional dedication in teaching, caring and ensuring that children are safe.
- The key-person system is extremely robust and staff know children incredibly well. They establish remarkably warm and nurturing relationships with children, who are visibly happy and show that they feel exceptionally secure in staff's care.
- Staff are skilled at producing accurate assessments that identify children's next steps in learning and gaps in their development. They actively work with their managers to track children's skills and ensure their exceptional progress.
- Across the nursery, the highly qualified staff plan exceptionally stimulating play opportunities for children. There is an accurate balance of adult-led and child-led activities, indoors and outside. Children flourish in their learning and development.
- Staff complete thorough risk assessments of the premises, equipment and resources. They expertly teach children about safety. Staff are extremely attentive in supervising children during play and give utmost priority to keeping them safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enhance the excellent opportunities for staff's professional development to maintain the already outstanding quality of teaching and learning for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed joint observations of activities in each room with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the evidence of the suitability, training and qualifications of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector discussed reflective practice with staff, parents and managers. She looked at the nursery's self-evaluation forms and quality audits.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views through written feedback.

Inspector

Karina Hemerling

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend regular safeguarding training to develop their excellent knowledge of the signs of abuse. They are extremely confident about the steps to follow to make referrals of concerns about a child or other adults. Managers follow rigorous recruitment and induction systems. They continuously monitor staff's suitability and performance. Staff strive to provide the highest quality services for children. For example, they carry out regular safety, safeguarding and learning audits to continuously monitor and improve practice. The exceptionally dedicated team plans on attending even more training to maintain the outstanding outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are inspirational teachers. For example, they help babies to develop exceptional coordination, physical and language skills as they take scarves out and put them into containers of different sizes and shapes. Staff astutely challenge children's learning. For example, toddlers are inquisitive during highly engaging reading sessions and show exceptional confidence in communication as they retell stories using props and natural resources. In all rooms, children are highly motivated to explore the safe and extremely stimulating play areas. For example, staff extend older children's interest in planets using extensive resources and books to teach them about the Earth. Children learn about the importance of water, vegetation and their role in looking after nature and animals to help protect the world they live in.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have exceptional opportunities to learn to independently manage their personal care needs. Additionally, they are extremely proud to help staff during routines. Staff are excellent role models and successfully support children's emotional development. Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff are experts in teaching children about diversity, other cultures and festivals. Children learn to respect and accept their peers and others in their community. Staff inspirationally promote children's health. They ensure children have nutritious meals and plenty of outdoor play. Children engage in exciting learning experiences outside. For example, staff astutely promote children's physical skills as they engage them in an exciting storytelling activity in the garden. Children act out the characters of a story as they pretend to walk through mud, long grass and snow. They are challenged to pretend to cross a river and enter a cave. Staff are experts in promoting children's imagination and creativity.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language, make exceptional progress. Additionally, managers invest additional funding to provide children with specialist support to meet their individual needs. From an early age, children show high levels of motivation, perseverance and engagement during activities across all areas of learning. They achieve a tremendous foundation and are educationally and emotionally prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY540707
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10081494
Type of provision	Full day care
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	90
Number of children on roll	87
Name of registered person	Little Learners Montessori Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP531748
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01923 804488

The Little Learners Montessori Watford registered in 2016. The nursery employs 30 members of childcare staff. Of these, 25 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3, 4 and 6. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday, for 50 weeks a year, excluding bank holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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