

Active Learning West Hampstead Nursery

88 Compayne Gardens, London, NW6 3RU



Inspection date 25 August 2017
Previous inspection date 3 July 2014

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children make good progress and develop the necessary skills for their next steps in learning and for their move to school. They develop their independence skills well. Children have opportunities to manage their personal needs, including serving themselves food and drink carefully during meals. They learn to be responsible.
- The manager and staff check accurately what children can do. They know the children well, including groups of children. They make regular observations of children's abilities and plan suitably challenging activities to support their good development.
- Children benefit from staff's effective partnership with parents. Staff regularly share information with parents about children's development. They involve them in their children's learning in the setting and at home to support their good levels of progress.
- The manager reflects on the setting's practice well, recognising strengths and areas to develop. He acts on the advice of others, such as other early years professionals, to help improve practice and children's outcomes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not provide younger children with age-appropriate experiences to fully support their early literacy skills.
- At times, staff do not encourage children to explore a range of simple technology to help them develop their skills and learning further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on opportunities for the youngest children to develop their early literacy skills
- develop fully children's use and understanding of simple technology, to help extend their learning experiences and skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children as they engaged together in activities, and assessed the impact of teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector and the manager undertook a joint observation of a teaching activity.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager and staff during the inspection about children's care and the activities provided for them.
- The inspector took into account the views of the parents and carers spoken to on the day and engaged with children at appropriate times.
- The inspector viewed documentation during the inspection, such as the setting's policies and procedures, attendance registers and children's assessment folders.

Inspector

Anneka Qayyum

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager understands his responsibility to protect children and implements effective policies and procedures to support their welfare. He deploys staff well to ensure ratio requirements are met effectively and children are well supervised and safe. The manager ensures staff's suitability, following robust recruitment procedures to support children's well-being. Staff know how to recognise and report any signs that indicate a child may be at risk of harm. The manager monitors staff practice. He reflects effectively on the quality of their practice to help maintain good teaching levels. He provides good opportunities for staff to develop their knowledge and skills, such as through thorough inductions and regular staff meetings. Staff are well qualified to support children's well-being. For instance, they attend first-aid training and know how to deal with any accidents and injuries and provide good levels of care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children play confidently in a safe, stimulating, well-organised and interesting environment that helps to support all areas of learning well. Children are keen to explore the resources and concentrate well. They enjoy creative experiences, such as while building with blocks. For example, they think of ideas and share the resources as they play, while developing their hand muscle control. Staff provide good opportunities to help develop children's understanding of the similarities and differences of others. For instance, they make books about children's lives and families to help them learn about and value each other's backgrounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are caring and form warm relationships with children. They are sensitive to children's needs and support their emotional well-being effectively. Children behave well. Staff share their expectations with them to help them learn what is and is not acceptable. They act as good role models for children to learn from. For example, they remind children to say 'please' and 'thank you' and they help them learn to be polite. Children eat nutritious food, are active and enjoy using equipment. For instance, they ride on tricycles, balance on crates and develop their physical skills well. Staff regularly assess risks in all areas that children use to identify and remove any hazards.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points and develop skills that support their next stage of learning. Children interact and communicate confidently with others. Babies babble happily while they play, and toddlers learn to sing along to rhymes. Overall, children develop good literacy skills, such as older children learning to sound out the initial sounds in words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY360658
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	1111680
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	164
Number of children on roll	158
Name of registered person	Active Learning Childcare (Guernsey) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP900861
Date of previous inspection	3 July 2014
Telephone number	0203 031 9097

Active Learning West Hampstead Nursery registered in 2008. The nursery is located in West Hampstead, in the London Borough of Camden. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am until 6.30pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. It currently employs 70 members of staff. Of these, 34 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above, including one who holds qualified teacher status.

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