

Belfield Montessori Day Nursery



Belfield House, Greenhill Park, New Barnet, BARNET, Hertfordshire, EN5 1HG

Inspection date	2 February 2015
Previous inspection date	19 February 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn. They plan and provide challenging activities, which they tailor to meet children's individual needs and interests.
- Parents and other professionals speak highly of staff who are skilled in securing good outcomes for children, while taking into account their starting points on entry.
- Staff build warm and affectionate relationships with the children from the beginning, which helps them to settle and feel secure.
- Children have frequent opportunities to exercise and explore in the fresh air to develop their physical skills and promote their good health.
- Staff effectively protect children from harm; they demonstrate a robust understanding of their responsibilities with regards to safeguarding children. Staff update their safeguarding knowledge regularly by attending training courses and regular staff briefings.
- The management team uses effective systems to monitor teaching and learning to promote children's continuous development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to encourage pre-school children to develop their skills of cooperation and concentration to help prepare them for school.
- Staff do not promote children's understanding of technology fully in order to help them learn necessary skills for the future.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop strategies to help children improve their skills of cooperation and concentration, particularly during group sessions to prepare them for their future learning
- offer a suitable range of technology based resources to enhance children's learning opportunities and to further increase their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interacting with the children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to the management team, staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning, staff suitability, risk assessments and sampled a range of documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jennifer Forbes

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff provide a wide range of activities and experiences that promote children's learning. Overall, the quality of teaching is good because staff demonstrate effective skills in helping children achieve better outcomes. Children make effective progress in their communication and language skills because staff provide a language-rich environment indoors and outdoors, with displays of words and pictures to show their meaning. Staff provide good opportunities for children to work together as a group. For example, older children develop their mathematical understanding of colours, numbers and shapes and learn to identify shapes, such as hexagons and octagons. However, staff do not always instil in children the importance of cooperation and taking turns in group situations to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children settle well into the nursery because staff help them to build strong attachments. They learn to be independent from a very young age and try to dress themselves and keep manage their personal care needs. Children learn to keep themselves safe as staff present challenging physical activities, which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children enjoy exploring nature during their frequent visits to the garden. For example, they dig in the mud kitchen to find buried treasure and search for worms in the frozen soil. Children's exploration of the garden in the winter ignites their curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Staff extend children's understanding by showing them the effect of their warm breath on the cold air around them. Staff provide good-quality resources indoors and outdoors to promote children's learning in all areas. However, they provide fewer resources to promote younger children's awareness of technology to further extend their learning experiences.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Staff have a secure understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They carry out effective risk assessments on all areas of the provision to ensure the safety of the children. Staff protect children who have special dietary requirements by displaying clear details of allergies and food preferences in every room. The management team evaluate staff practice and monitors the progress of individual children. This ensures that all children make good progress in their learning and development. Staff develop good partnerships with parents and other professionals involved in children's care and provide progress reports on a regular basis. The management process for self-evaluation is robust and they have secure plans for continuous improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY407188
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	962888
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	56
Name of provider	Alexandra Pacayova
Date of previous inspection	19 February 2014
Telephone number	0208 440 88 22

Belfield Montessori Day Nursery registered in 2010 and is privately owned. It is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. The nursery operates from a detached house in New Barnet, in the London Borough of Barnet. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The nursery is open five days a week from 8am until 6pm all-year round, except for bank holidays and two weeks at Christmas. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two-, three-, and four years. The nursery employs 14 members of staff, nine of whom hold relevant early years qualifications at level 3 and five at level 2.

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