

Belfield Montessori Day Nursery



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

Inspection date	16 June 2017
Previous inspection date	2 February 2015

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

- All staff are enthusiastic and motivated. They provide the children with high-quality play and learning opportunities.
- Assessment of children's progress is accurate, helping to target teaching precisely to ensure children make good progress or help them catch up where necessary.
- Staff are skilled in observing and listening to young children. They give children time to think about their ideas and use their own words to express their thoughts.
- Accurate self-evaluation is used to continuously improve the provision. The provider targets specific areas for further development to have a positive impact on the experiences of the children.
- Staff offer a warm and caring environment which parents value. Children progress well, are eager to learn and share that learning with others.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although children behave well overall, some staff are not consistently effective in reinforcing children's understanding of how they are expected to behave.
- Staff do not consistently recognise opportunities that arise to build on children's immediate interests to extend their learning as fully as possible.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with more consistent support to help them understand how to manage their own behaviour more effectively
- support staff to make better use of opportunities to build on children's immediate interests to extend their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed different activities, including outdoor play.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector looked at some policies, children's records and documents relating to the suitability of staff, and discussed self-evaluation with the manager.
- The inspector talked to staff, children and parents to gather their views.

Inspector

Ceri Callf

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. All staff are confident in their understanding of the signs and symptoms which may give cause for concern about a child's welfare and know the procedures to follow. Staff have completed relevant training about how to identify any children who may be at risk of being exposed to extreme ideas or behaviours. The manager carries out effective recruitment and induction procedures. This helps her to consistently ensure that staff are suitable to work with children. The manager is supportive of staff's continuing professional development, such as through regular training, supervision and appraisal. Staff make good use of their developing skills to improve outcomes for children. For example, they learn sign language where appropriate to support communication with children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff quickly identify any areas of learning that may require additional support, helping to improve outcomes for all children. They work well with other relevant professionals, if needed. Parents say they receive regular information about their children's care, learning and development. They say they can ask staff for help and advice, if needed, and feel involved in their children's learning. Children benefit from innovative activities. For example, they learn to make their own 'moon sand' which they squash and make into different shapes. Children look for treasure in the sand pit and closely examine what they find. This supports their understanding of the world and their physical development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are secure in their relationships with staff and happily turn to them for help if they need it. This supports their emotional well-being. Children learn about leading a healthy lifestyle as they eat healthy and interesting meals. For example, they enjoy pasta with a sauce made from herbs they have grown themselves. This supports them in learning about the natural world. Children understand how to keep themselves safe and put on their sun hats before going outdoors on a sunny day.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident and motivated learners. They examine a tree stump and use their mathematical skills to count the rings and explore how old it was. They develop their emerging writing as they use chalks to write their names as they play outdoors. Children enjoy playing team games and developing their social skills. For example, they gather together in a group to play chasing games and laugh excitedly together. Children make good progress from their different starting points. They spontaneously carry out simple acts of self-care, such as pouring water for themselves and other children. They learn many skills which prepare them well for the next stage of their learning, including school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY407188
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	1085914
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	77
Name of registered person	Alexandra Pacayova
Registered person unique reference number	RP513948
Date of previous inspection	2 February 2015
Telephone number	0208 440 88 22

Belfield Montessori Day Nursery registered in 2010. The nursery is open on Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and two weeks at Christmas. There are 19 members of staff and, of these, 16 hold relevant early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery follows the Montessori teaching philosophy.

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