

Margaret McMillan Nursery School

Hornsey Rise, London, N19 3SF



Inspection date

16 February 2017

Previous inspection date

10 July 2013

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

- Parents have a positive view of the nursery. They receive regular information about their children's development and find staff approachable and friendly.
- Staff provide a variety of activities and experiences for children, indoors and outdoors. Children are eager to play and curious about new learning opportunities. They gain good listening and attention skills. All children make good progress.
- The dedicated leadership team uses effective self-evaluation systems. They seek feedback from staff, parents and children when reflecting on quality and practice. They use this feedback well to set purposeful actions to improve outcomes for children.
- Children are well cared for. The key-person system is effective and supports children to settle quickly. Children are happy and emotionally secure. Staff know them well and are attentive to their needs and interests.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not ensure that information about children's next steps in learning is shared effectively with other staff to aid consistency of support.
- At times, staff do not use opportunities to encourage children to do things for themselves, such as managing tasks independently, to sharpen their skills further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen arrangements for sharing information between staff about children's next steps in learning to provide consistent support for children's learning
- provide more effective opportunities for children to develop their independence in managing everyday tasks and experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in a range of activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and observed their teaching.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to take account of their views.
- The inspector sampled a wide range of documentation, including staff suitability checks, children's development records and attendance registers.

Inspector

Christine Lamey

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff show a secure understanding of how to safeguard children from harm. They are well qualified, experienced and work well together as a team. Leaders monitor staff effectively and provide regular support and coaching to help staff to fully understand their joint and individual roles and responsibilities. For example, plans for the next staff training day include staff development in supporting each other. Leaders monitor children's individual learning and groups of children who may have identified special educational needs and/or disabilities extremely well. For example, children with specific physical needs are provided with specialist equipment and staff support them to take part in activities.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good knowledge of how to support children's learning. They help younger children to gain good physical skills, and provide opportunities for them to gain confidence in their growing abilities, indoors and outdoors. The well-qualified staff team makes good use of activities to help children extend their language and communication skills. For example, staff use questioning effectively to help children to develop their vocabulary and use their imagination. Staff recognise children's current interests and expand their interests well. For example, children learn about the different parts of a flower that a child brought to nursery. They watch eagerly as they learn about the names of the parts, draw them and write their names.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have healthy meals, and staff give children clear messages about healthy eating. Children have good opportunities to learn about each other's differences, for example, through a wide range of activities and resources. Children learn to enjoy being active in the very large and well-resourced gardens. Children develop good control and coordination. They confidently ride wheeled toys, negotiate climbing frames and steps, and rock on the see-saw, taking great care not to fall. Staff stay nearby and offer encouragement or a helping hand if needed. Children learn about good hygiene routines. For example, staff remind them to wash their hands after toileting and before eating.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those for whom the setting receives additional funding, make good progress. Children enjoy exploring, following their own interests and trying out new experiences. They learn to be considerate towards one another and to share and take turns with familiar resources. Older children develop good early mathematical and literacy skills. For example, they learn to count, write confidently, and recognise letters and the sounds they represent.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY304482
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	1061893
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	143
Number of children on roll	133
Name of registered person	Margaret McMillan Nursery School Governing Body
Registered person unique reference number	RP525437
Date of previous inspection	10 July 2013
Telephone number	020 7281 2745

Margaret McMillan Nursery School registered in 1990. It is situated in Hornsey Rise in the London Borough of Islington. The nursery opens each weekday from 8am until 5.45pm for 48 weeks of the year. The nursery is in receipt of funding for free nursery education for children aged two, three and four years. The headteacher and five other members of the team hold a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and 22 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

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