

Inspection of Woodentots Montessori Nature Babies

The Hub, 128 Myddleton Road, London N22 8NQ

Inspection date: 11 October 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy at this welcoming setting. They develop close relationships with staff and show a sense of belonging. Younger children are interested in others and call staff and friends by their names. Staff demonstrate genuine care and affection for the children. They give them cuddles and reassurance. Children feel safe and develop self-esteem. Children show curiosity and become engrossed while exploring the well-thought-out indoor and outdoor environments. They giggle and hide behind chiffon scarves in anticipation as staff remove them. Children concentrate for a long period while painting with mud in the garden.

Staff are excellent role models for the behaviour they expect. They praise children and celebrate their achievements. Staff encourage children to use their 'gentle hands' when playing with others. This contributes to create a culture of respect, praise and kindness. Children behave well and use good manners from an early age.

Staff support children to develop good physical skills. Children have a wealth of opportunities to be active and take appropriate risks, such as negotiating climbing on ladders. Children have plenty of chances to enjoy fresh air and to learn to appreciate nature and the local community through first-hand experiences. They visit local parks and shops.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leadership are passionate about providing high-quality education to all children attending the setting. They reflect on practice and work closely with the provider and staff to identify areas for development. For example, they reorganised certain play areas to make it more accessible for all children.
- Children enjoy home-made and nutritionally balanced meals cooked by the chef. Staff talk about favourite vegetables and how food is prepared. They show children how to hold tongs so that they can serve themselves. Children follow good hygiene routines and learn about the importance of washing their hands. This helps them to develop healthy habits and independence skills.
- Children are encouraged to play and explore. They enjoy sensory experiences, such as playing with straw. Children use their fine motor skills when they fill and empty containers in the water tray. They are thrilled to dig in the soil, looking for the potatoes they previously planted.
- Staff implement respectful care routines and demonstrate a clear understanding of babies and young children's needs. This positively contributes to children's emotional well-being.
- Children benefit from activities that support their communication and language development. Staff sing songs and read books with them throughout the day.

Young children learn songs and rhymes. They snuggle in with staff for their favourite stories. However, on occasion, some staff miss opportunities to help children learn new words and expand their growing vocabulary further.

- Staff know all the children well. They skilfully observe and assess children to identify what they can do and their next steps. Staff work with parents and other professionals to ensure that all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress.
- Parents are very complimentary about the setting and say that the 'amazing staff' go above and beyond in their support. They are pleased with the excellent communication from the 'brilliant manager'. Staff regularly inform parents of how they can support their children's development at home and about their progress. This ensures continuity of care.
- Children follow simple instructions and the daily routines well. Staff encourage children to put their toys away at tidy-up time and use songs to mark changes in the routine. However, occasionally, transitions happen too quickly for the younger children. This means that sometimes they do not understand what is happening and can get unsettled.
- The leadership team models good practice and offers coaching to staff through regular meetings and supervision. Staff have plenty of opportunities for professional development through an online training platform. Staff comment that they are well supported and feel valued; they enjoy working at the nursery and appreciate that leaders recognise their good work. This helps them to fulfil their role.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support staff to help support children to expand their growing vocabulary even further
- review arrangements to help younger children to better understand what is happening now and what will happen next so that transitions in the daily routine are consistently smooth.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2675120
Local authority	Haringey
Inspection number	10355116
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 2
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	17
Name of registered person	WOODENTOTS MONTESSORI NATURE BABIES LIMITED
Registered person unique reference number	2675123
Telephone number	07916175662
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Woodentots Montessori Nature Babies registered in 2022. It is situated in Bowes Park, in the London Borough of Haringey. The nursery operates Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 50 weeks of the year. The provider employs five members of childcare staff. Of these, the manager holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 6, and four members of staff hold qualifications at level 3 or above. The nursery provides funded early education for nine-month-old and two-year-old children. The setting is inspired by the Montessori teaching methods and the Rudolf Steiner educational philosophy.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Damiana Cornacchia

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the setting and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- Children interacted with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The manager and the inspector carried out a joint observation during group activities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The manager and leaders showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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