

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery St Albans

The Old Station, Orient Close, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1JD



Inspection date	2 June 2017
Previous inspection date	20 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff maintain comprehensive assessments of children's skills and have an exceptional understanding of their learning. All children make excellent progress.
- Staff accurately plan activities for all children's learning. Babies' language is expertly promoted as they mix water and cornflour using their hands and tools. Toddlers actively develop their precision while balancing on stepping stones and playing ball games. Pre-school children develop a passion for books, reading and writing.
- Staff astutely use a range of methods to exchange information with parents about children's interests and the planning of activities and assessments. Children have outstanding continuous support between home and nursery.
- There are extremely strong partnerships between parents and staff to meticulously tailor practice to the needs and personal requirements of children. Children settle swiftly, make friends and show very secure bonds and attachments with staff.
- Staff are impressive role models for children and astutely teach them about good manners and the importance of being respectful and kind towards others. Children fully understand staff's high expectations of them and behave exceptionally well.
- The manager leads an inspirational team of impressively talented and highly qualified staff. She provides them with continuous opportunities to develop their talents, skills and teaching through coaching and an abundance of training.

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 even more access to the excellent range of resources and activities that promotes their understanding of cultures as part of their outstanding learning opportunities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed joint observations of activities with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held meetings with the nursery manager. She looked at evidence of staff's suitability, qualifications and training and talked about the nursery's self-evaluation process with the nursery manager.
- The inspector spoke with a small selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Karina Hemerling

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager expertly engages staff in learning about safeguarding through training and regular discussions. Staff know of their duty to protect children. They fully understand the signs of abuse and procedures to make referrals of concerns. Staff conduct meticulous risk assessments of the premises to ensure children are safe. They proficiently teach children about right and wrong. From an early age they use kind hands and respect their boundaries. The inspiring manager astutely motivates her highly qualified staff and parents to contribute to the continuous improvement of the provision. Parents highly praise the dedication of staff.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff are outstanding teachers and plan extremely interesting and challenging activities to support children's interests. Babies take off their socks then try to put them on again. Staff bring dolls, dolls' clothes, other socks and gloves to extend their play. Toddlers love diggers, enjoy books about them and create actions with their hands while digging in the soil outside. Pre-school children excitedly learn to play a real trumpet, then eagerly march to the rhythms played to them. They march outside where they go over, under and through the equipment, singing and having the best time. Staff are extremely creative and have fun with the children, who all make incredible progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are extremely welcoming and children are exceptionally comfortable at nursery. They fully benefit from staff's incredible dedication and attention towards their needs. Staff work with parents in excellent partnerships to support children's emotional development. Children are extremely independent and benefit from equipment and routines that are expertly matched to their skills. Consequently, they flourish. Staff astutely promote children's social skills with plenty of small- and large-group activities. Children learn to be healthy and enjoy nutritious, freshly cooked meals. They have plenty of exercise and amazing opportunities to play in the fresh air throughout the day.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children access an excellent variety of activities that is meticulously planned to ensure they learn skills across all areas of learning. There is capacity to make the excellent range of resources and activities that promotes children's awareness of cultures even more accessible, to further extend their already outstanding learning opportunities. Babies are expertly motivated and supported to master their skills in crawling and walking. Toddlers learn through imaginative play about their needs and emotions. They are extremely confident. Pre-school children show advanced science, mathematical and creative skills. All children make outstanding progress in preparation for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY412270
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1094399
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	48
Number of children on roll	95
Name of registered person	Amanda Griffiths Ltd T/A Monkey Puzzle Day Nurseries
Registered person unique reference number	RP906686
Date of previous inspection	20 February 2015
Telephone number	01727 568 366

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery St Albans registered in 2010. The nursery employs 20 members of childcare staff. Of these, 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2, 3, or 4, including four who hold a BA (Honours) Degree in Early Years and two who hold qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6.30pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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