

Inspection of West Hendon Pre School

St. John's Church Hall, Algernon Road, Hendon, London NW4 3TA

Inspection date: 18 September 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children run to the door as they arrive at this well-organised pre-school. Caring staff greet children and parents warmly. They adapt their care for each child, quickly making plans after a swift handover from parents. For example, parents inform staff if their children slept well or if they ate breakfast, and staff use this information to plan children's day. Staff give children time to settle. Children approach their peers to play and seek out staff if they need a reassuring hug.

Staff provide a well-resourced, stimulating indoor and outdoor play environment. This supports children's development across all areas of the curriculum. Children choose resources from a wide range that is easily accessible to them. They access the resources confidently and engage purposefully in activities that interest them. For example, they use their imagination and link play to real-life experiences. When preparing food in the home corner, children approach staff with a plate and spoon to 'eat' what they have made.

Children's behaviour is good. Staff have high expectations for all children. Staff act as good role models, demonstrating respectful interactions and communication, which children observe and follow. Children happily follow routines, such as washing their hands before sitting down to eat fruit at snack time.

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

- The pre-school is inclusive and staff know children's backgrounds in detail. Staff celebrate children's home languages and cultures through an array of meaningful activities. Children and their parents delight in sharing many aspects of their cultural heritage, stories and traditional clothes. These rich, shared experiences help to foster children's knowledge of similarities and differences exceptionally well.
- Staff are skilled at encouraging children to be curious and to explore all areas of the setting. For example, children choose where they play, and the garden is often a popular choice. Children enjoy being active and using the equipment and resources outside, such as the climbing frame and water.
- All children, including those needing extra help, make good progress in their learning and development. Leaders work with staff, professionals and parents to meet children's needs. Regular visits from agencies provide additional support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff use funding effectively to offer children individual support to enhance focused teaching and accelerate children's progress.
- Staff provide a curriculum that is ambitious and builds on children's current strengths to help them to move on to their next stage of learning. Children are excited to get involved in the experiences that staff offer and this provides a

positive learning environment for all children.

- Partnership with parents is a strength of the pre-school. Parents speak very highly about the service they receive, and they praise the work that staff do. Staff upload photos and speak to parents daily to share their children's achievements and learning.
- Children, including children who speak English as an additional language, become confident communicators and readily chat with visitors. They use clear speech and repeat simple words and phrases to secure children's understanding. Staff working with younger children introduce songs, naming the actions and sounds.
- Staff interact well with children to extend their learning during planned activities. For example, they help children to make marks using different materials to support their early writing skills. However, when children engage in child-led play activities, staff do not engage as consistently to extend children's learning. For instance, as children play in the garden and choose their own resources to explore, some staff supervise children rather than engaging with them to further support their learning.
- Leaders care about the well-being of staff, children and families using the pre-school. Staff have regular supervision sessions and ongoing training opportunities are available for them. Leaders carry out their own observations and model high-quality teaching practice. However, there are inconsistencies in the quality of some staff's teaching skills. For example, although staff introduce mathematical language, such as 'more' and 'less' to support children to compare quantities, on occasions they do not extend children's counting skills. This prevents children from making even better progress.

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 develop their interactions with children during child-led play activities
- enhance performance management processes to ensure consistently high-quality teaching, such as by supporting staff to implement mathematics more effectively to improve children's counting skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	147646
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	10359774
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	16
Name of registered person	West Hendon Opportunity Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP910798
Telephone number	020 8202 5057
Date of previous inspection	6 December 2018

Information about this early years setting

West Hendon Pre School registered in 1992 and is located in Hendon, in the London Borough of Barnet. The pre-school is open during term time, from 8.50am to 2.50pm, Monday to Friday. It provides government-funded childcare for children aged two, three and four years. There are six staff, who all hold appropriate early years qualifications ranging from level 2 to level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rizwana Nagoor

Inspection activities

- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed the early years curriculum.
- The inspector spoke with staff and interacted with children.
- Parents shared their views about the pre-school with the inspector.
- The inspector carried out two joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.

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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