

Charters Nursery

YMCA Woodlands Centre, Leavesden Country Park, College Road, Abbots Langley,
Hertfordshire, WD5 0GU



Inspection date 23 October 2017
Previous inspection date 24 April 2013

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

- The dynamic staff are relentless in their pursuit of excellence. They use self-evaluation superbly to continually reflect on their service. The views of other professionals, parents and children are consistently sought. These contribute to the outstanding service the nursery provides and the rapid progress children make.
- Staff form excellent partnerships with parents and involve them in every aspect of their children's learning. They implement innovative ideas that have a positive impact in supporting parents with their children's development. Parents welcome the opportunity to borrow the toilet-training information bag, containing a wealth of information to support their children through this process at home.
- Children of all ages thrive in this vibrant environment. The strong skills of all key persons ensure that children form very warm and caring bonds with them. Children are exceptionally confident and demonstrate that they feel very safe and secure. Many children introduce themselves to visiting adults and are extremely eager to demonstrate a dance routine they have recently learnt.
- Staff have a superb understanding of how children learn and make superb use of spontaneous events to enhance this. For example, older children learn how to keep safe in strong wind and observe the sky and sun changing colour during storm Ophelia.
- Staff work exceptionally closely with a wide range of professionals to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. They share a short film, made in association with a national organisation, with parents. This enables parents to view how the nursery is highly effective in meeting all children's individual needs.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to introduce even more innovative opportunities for children to develop their deep concentration.

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 interacted and spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and deputy manager. She watched a video, looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff have a very secure knowledge of the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The management team and staff focus on monitoring children's progress to identify and address gaps as soon as they emerge. Regular rigorous supervisory meetings and excellent training opportunities are thoroughly effective and embedded. The well-qualified staff are inspirational. They have a real thirst to continue to extend their knowledge and skills. Staff identify ways to further extend children's play. They notice that boys now concentrate for longer periods of time in imaginative play since introducing some real-life materials, such as china teapots and crockery into the role-play areas. Staff recognise the importance of continually finding ways to help extend all children's play to maintain the excellent outcomes in their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff meticulously plan exciting and highly stimulating experiences. All children are highly motivated and eager to learn. Staff are incredibly responsive to children's immediate interests and know exactly when to intervene in their play to extend their learning. They promote children's language development superbly. For example, staff consistently respond to babies babbles and introduce them to new words in context. Younger children learn the meaning of complex words, such as transparent. They discover that they can see through transparent containers as they immerse them in water. Older children are inquisitive and expert problem solvers. They respond exceptionally well to staff's outstanding use of questions that challenge their thinking. Children make predictions and work out why a large quantity of lentils will not flow through a sieve.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

It is clearly evident that staff enjoy being with the children. Staff are outstanding role models; they place the utmost importance on teaching children to respect each other. Children consistently use good manners and demonstrate superb caring relationships with each other. They gain an excellent understanding of eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables a day and keep a record of this. Staff provide children with outstanding opportunities to develop their physical skills in the surrounding parkland and the highly stimulating outdoor areas.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make rapid progress from their individual starting points and gain the skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school. Children are exceptionally independent. For example, older children make their own accurate assessments of the appropriate clothing to wear according to the weather conditions. They solve complex mathematical problems, identify some letters in the environment and are beginning to write words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130485
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1063619
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	94
Number of children on roll	112
Name of registered person	One YMCA
Registered person unique reference number	RP904332
Date of previous inspection	24 April 2013
Telephone number	01923 662221

Charters Nursery registered in 1998. It employs 22 members of childcare staff. The nursery opens from 7.30am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday all year round. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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