

The Minors Nursery School

Lower Floor, 10 Pembridge Square, London, W2 4ED



Inspection date	9 November 2015
Previous inspection date	7 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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

- The headteacher is committed to providing high standards of teaching and care. She has established effective self-evaluation techniques, taking into account the views of parents, staff and children. Processes for identifying and addressing areas for further improvement are secure.
- Staff gather information from parents about their children prior to starting. They observe and assess children's learning, and use this information well to plan activities based around children's interests.
- Children develop strong bonds with the kind and caring staff team. All children are familiar with the staff, who get to know them well. Children show they feel comfortable, secure and ready to learn.
- Staff work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure all children, including those who have special educational needs, receive additional support. All children make good progress relative to their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff do not fully explore ways to encourage children to use their home language even further to aid their language development.
- Staff do not always make the best use of questioning techniques to extend children's learning opportunities even further, for example, when discussing stories.

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What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase opportunities for children who are learning English as an additional language to use their home language more often, particularly to support their language development
- use questions more skilfully to engage children even further in their learning and to develop their thinking and communication skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and during outdoor play.
- The inspector spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection, and held a meeting with the headteacher.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the headteacher.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including staff records, children's records, and the nursery's policies and procedures.

Inspector

Vanessa Linehan

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Inspection findings**Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good**

The headteacher has a good knowledge of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She implements robust recruitment methods to ensure that all staff are suitable. Safeguarding is effective. Staff know how to identify children who may be at risk of harm, including the procedures for reporting any welfare concerns. Staff undertake regular training opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills. The headteacher provides staff with ongoing support. She regularly observes the quality of teaching practice and addresses any issues relating to their performance. The headteacher monitors the learning programme well, including the outcomes of different groups of children. For example, she has identified ways to extend children's understanding of everyday technology.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff encourage children to explore all areas of the playrooms, including the outside space. Children choose from a variety of interesting and challenging resources and activities. For example, younger children sing songs about bonfire night, while recalling their recent experience of seeing fireworks. Staff promote children's early reading skills. For example, older children learn about letters and their sounds while matching items that begin with the same letter. Staff involve parents in their children's learning, such as by asking parents to help their children find objects at home that start with a particular letter. Additionally, staff encourage parents' involvement by inviting them to the nursery to discuss their children's progress, including ways to extend learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a calm atmosphere and set clear boundaries. They ensure children are polite and kind towards one another. Children's behaviour is good. Staff know how to support children effectively during periods of change. They encourage parents to stay with their children when they start to help them settle. The headteacher has established good relationships with local schools. For example, the Reception Class teachers visit the children prior to their move on to school. Children learn to respect other cultures and views. They learn about different festivals and celebrations, such as special clothes worn during these times. Staff teach children about the importance of healthy lifestyles. Children follow good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands before eating and enjoy eating healthy snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

Staff assess children's development and know how to identify and address any gaps in children's learning. Staff prepare children effectively for the eventual move to school by ensuring they help them to gain the necessary skills.

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Setting details

Unique reference number	EY295790
Local authority	Kensington & Chelsea
Inspection number	827003
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	87
Name of provider	Alpha Plus Group Limited
Date of previous inspection	7 February 2011
Telephone number	020 7727 7253(Mob) 077 6967 8775

The Minors Nursery School registered in September 2004. The nursery is located in Notting Hill Gate, in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. This setting is open Monday to Friday, during term time only. It opens from 9am to 12 noon and 1pm to 4pm. Children attend either morning or afternoon sessions. There are 11 members of staff, including the headteacher, of whom nine hold early years qualifications. Two staff have achieved Early Years Professional Status and Qualified Teacher Status.

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