

Ministeps Nursery

150 Joel Street, Northwood, HA6 1NL



Inspection date

10 May 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 provider and the manager work well together. They regularly review all aspects of nursery life and plan effectively to maintain good standards of care and education.
- Staff provide a warm welcome to all families. Children enjoy attending and parents feel very happy about leaving their children in the care of the kind and helpful staff.
- Staff plan the day so that they promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle well. For example, they provide waterproofs so children can spend time outdoors whatever the weather, and they plan menus carefully so meals are particularly nutritious and varied.
- Children make good progress. Staff promote their developing language particularly well. For example, they sing to babies and young children as they go about their day and model new words clearly and effectively.
- Staff provide an interesting and varied range of play opportunities, indoors and outdoors. Overall, children remain keen to explore and excited to learn.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, staff do not organise timings between activities well. For example, staff tidy away resources in preparation for meals before checking that the food is ready. At these times some younger children become unsettled and distracted.
- Sometimes, staff spend too long talking to older children about what they are going to do, meaning some of the more active learners lose interest and focus.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of the day to ensure children do not become unsettled and distracted when waiting between activities
- consider the needs of more active learners when planning whole group times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and staff, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the parents' views.
- The inspector spoke with staff about their understanding of safeguarding, child protection and first aid.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including children's records, the provider's policies and staff qualifications.

Inspector

Sarah Holley

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager takes account of the views of parents and staff when planning and implementing further improvements. For example, she has improved opportunities for babies to explore different textures and take part in 'messy play' activities and has successfully worked with staff to further develop their use of assessments. She is now able to more closely monitor children's progress so that children not making expected progress can be quickly identified and helped to catch up with their peers. She works well with other professionals, both to support individual children and to develop the provision as a whole. The manager supports staff to gain qualifications and to attend training to update their skills. She ensures they have regular opportunities to discuss their performance. This has a positive impact on the quality of teaching. Safeguarding is effective. Staff know what to do if they are concerned about a child's welfare and the provider follows robust recruitment procedures to ensure staff are suitable to work with children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching has a positive impact on outcomes for children. Staff build good partnerships with parents which helps them build a clear picture of the skills, abilities and interests of children when they start. They use this information well and quickly begin to plan activities that the children will enjoy. For example, babies laugh and splash as they play with warm, bubbly water. Older children are excited to find snails in the garden and ask the cook for vegetable scraps so they can feed them. Staff join children as they organise pretend journeys in cars they have made from cardboard boxes.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Overall, staff meet children's care needs well. Babies develop strong bonds with those who look after them. They feel reassured when staff they know well sooth them to sleep and offer them their bottles. Children who are a little unsettled on arrival are quickly reassured by the patient staff. Staff ensure all children who need to rest or sleep can do so in a calm and quiet environment. Children behave well. Older children happily take turns and share toys and show good levels of confidence and self-esteem. Staff successfully create a safe, happy environment where children can have fun and develop into confident and capable young people.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy taking part in the broad range of activities on offer. They gain the skills needed for their future learning, including the move to school. Babies quickly develop the physical skills they need to crawl, walk and feed themselves. Older children learn to write their names and to sort and count. All children discover that learning can be fun and exciting and that adults can help you find things out and develop new skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY485244
Local authority	Hillingdon
Inspection number	1001161
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	43
Number of children on roll	90
Name of provider	Ministeps Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01923824508

Mini Steps Nursery registered in 2014. The nursery operates in the London Borough of Hillingdon and is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. The provider is in receipt of funding to provide free early years education to children aged two, three and four years. There are sixteen members of staff, of whom eleven hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 2 or level 3.

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