

Hardmoor Early Years Centre

Leaside Way, Bassett Green
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Executive Headteacher: Gerida Montague, MA
Head of Centre: Melanie Jackson B.Ed (Hons) EYPS

22 September 2023

Dear Parents

As you are aware on Tuesday July the 18th July a team of HMI and Ofsted Inspector visited Hardmoor to carry out their scheduled 8 inspection and at the end of the inspection were reassured that the Nursery and Early Years Setting continued to be "Good". Given the turbulence of the past years, we are incredibly pleased with the comments from the team and the outcome. We were pleased to be able to share with the inspectors the journey Hardmoor is on and the fabulous working relationship we have with the wider Federation and the positive impact this has had on the centre and the provision for our children.

It was really heartening to note that inspectors felt:

"High expectations permeate the nursery. Adults want the very best for every child. There is a palpable buzz as children learn and play cheerfully with their friends."

The inspectors were able to see in action the impact of the new Outdoor Woodland Learning (OWL) curriculum that has been developed across the Federation with all our children happily engaged:

"Leaders have made well-considered improvements to the curriculum to ensure that children experience varied and engaging learning opportunities... This interesting curriculum is well sequenced and precisely identifies the essential knowledge and skills that children need to learn and remember"

We are particularly proud that the inspectors were able to see the warm relationships all children have with the adults in the nursery and the clear behaviour expectations our children follow, leading to a calm and caring environment:

"Relationships between staff and children are warm and nurturing. Children behave superbly and show kindness to each other. They understand the importance of turn-taking and sharing."

The inspectors focused on the teaching and learning specifically around Communication and language, Maths and Physical Development. They were pleased to see well thought out activities to promote these areas both inside and out:

"...communication and language is evident throughout the nursery. Listening to stories, singing songs and rhymes play a key part in developing children's vocabulary and nurturing their love of reading."

Since becoming part of the federation there has been a big emphasis on supporting staff with their continued professional development. This was keenly recognised by the inspectors who could see the impact of this training through the knowledge of the staff"



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"The teaching of the curriculum is becoming increasingly expert.... Children become independent, confident and resilient learners."

Through their conversations with the team and the wider leadership team the inspectors could see that the centre was on a wonderful journey. Some excellent practice was clearly embedded and we will now focus on ensuring that every opportunity our children meet is full of excellence and nurture. We are determined to offer our children a truly exceptional early learning experience, paired with a nurturing family environment.

We thank all of our staff team, Governors, families and importantly our children for taking this exciting journey with us. Thank you for your kind support!

Kind Regards

Mel, Jo and Exec Partnership Board