

Childrens Montessori

Next to 24 Green End, Gamlingay, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 3LB



Inspection date	10 February 2015
Previous inspection date	21 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are happy, self-assured and confident. They benefit from an experienced staff team who know the children well and provide good care and education.
- Staff support children well through the move to school. They invite teachers to visit the nursery to observe the children in their good, familiar environment. They also share detailed assessments summaries with them.
- The outdoor area is effectively planned and consistently used; consequently, children who prefer to learn outdoors make good progress in all aspects of learning.
- Effective partnerships with parents ensure they are well informed about and supported with their children's learning and well-being.
- The manager and staff are vigilant about children's safety. They implement robust procedures to keep children safe and provide a secure environment.
- Staff have effective and regular supervisions and attend relevant training this helps them to continue to develop their already good knowledge and understanding.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some of the youngest children are occasionally not provided with developmentally appropriate group activity times. Therefore, on occasions they are not fully supported and engaged with what is going on.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's already good learning and development further, for example, by ensuring group activity times are planned to fully engage and interest the youngest children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the inside and outside play areas. She also spoke to members of staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection and from written documents.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of staff working in the provision, and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures to safeguard children's welfare.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The quality of teaching is good, because all staff have a strong knowledge and understanding of the areas of learning. The staff join in children's play and encourage and challenge them as they learn. For example, the creative area is popular with the children. They enjoy making cakes from dough and skilfully manipulate small figures and animals for decoration. Staff praise and encourage them well, as they tell them how good their decorations are. Staff support children's mathematical development very well. Children use a range of Montessori equipment to compare size and staff encourage them to use number and counting as they learn. The staff plan appropriate small group activities, such as music and movement sessions. However, on occasions some group activity times, such as French, are not developmentally appropriate for the youngest children. Consequently, some of the youngest children lose interest and become restless. Observations and assessments are carried out regularly and staff have an accurate understanding of what children can do and how to plan for the next steps in their learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children are happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. Staff promote children's confidence and physical development well as children play in the well resourced outdoor area. For example, children climb up the climbing frame, and show good awareness of space as they ride bikes on the painted road. Children learn appropriate hygiene practices through the daily routine. They know what food helps them to stay healthy. This is because they have opportunities to grow, gather, eat and talk about the vegetables from the nursery garden. All staff are good role models. They talk to children about what is right and wrong and praise positive behaviour. This supports their emotional well-being. Children play together well and firm, caring friendships are being made. Staff work very well with other professionals, such as, speech and language therapists, to ensure all children's needs are effectively met. This ensures that all children are prepared well for the move to school when the time comes.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager and staff demonstrate a clear understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The safeguarding procedures are well known by all practitioners, who are aware of, and understand their responsibility to report any concerns they have about children. Therefore, children are safeguarded well and are secure in the nursery. The monitoring of the range of activities and the quality of teaching is good, and so practice across the nursery is consistent. Parents express their views and give feedback on the nursery's practice through the use of questionnaires. This ensures that their views are taken into consideration as the staff effectively evaluate the nursery's provision and the service they offer to parents. For example, the manager has recently arranged a first-aid course for parents following a parent's request. Consequently, parents state they are very well supported by the nursery staff.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY316826
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	873183
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	21
Name of provider	Patricia Louise Jenkins
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2011
Telephone number	07714 821940

Childrens Montessori Nursery was registered in 2006. It is situated in Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff. Of these, five hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and two hold Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens each weekday during term time. Sessions are from 9am until 3pm. Holiday care is provided in some school holidays. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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