

# Childrens House Montessori



Birling Village Hall, Snodland Road, Birling, West Malling, Kent, ME19 5JG

**Inspection date** 19 May 2015  
Previous inspection date 5 July 2011

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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 <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Children develop good communication and personal skills, and are happy and confident within the setting.
- The key-person approach means that children and their families receive an effective settling-in routine. This successfully helps children to form good relationships with their key person, children and other staff.
- The staff team has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. They offer children a good range of challenging activities, which helps children make good progress in relation to their starting points.
- Staff deployment is good and they use every opportunity to promote individual children's learning and development.
- Staff work closely with local schools to help prepare children well for their move to school.
- Staff promote a healthy lifestyle for children. Staff teach them about healthy foods and ensure they take exercise in the fresh air daily in the well-resourced outdoor area.
- The manager uses a robust system for recruitment of staff, which ensures that they are suitable to work with children.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide opportunities for children to use the good range of resources that encourage them to use their imaginations. For example, to fully support their role play.
- The staff have not yet fully developed opportunities for children to engage with natural materials indoors to fully promote their exploration and investigative skills.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of natural play materials so that children can explore and investigate these indoors
- develop further opportunities for children to use the good range of resources to express their imaginations in role play.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and children, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their feedback.
- The inspector looked at children's progress folders and a sample of policies and procedures.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

### Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

## Inspection findings

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

Staff provide children with a good choice of high-quality resources that motivate them to learn and develop. For example, staff plan a good range of activities to promote children's physical development. They skilfully used tweezers, created necklaces with wooden beads and practised balancing on a range of equipment outdoors. Children learn about the natural environment by looking for leaves and bugs outdoors with magnifiers, and by arranging flowers in vases. Children gain an understanding of time and the seasons as they celebrate each other's birthdays. Staff use good questioning and teach children new words, which promotes their language development. For example, they learn about mammals and planets and discuss the use of a stethoscope to listen to their hearts. Staff develop children's literacy skills well. They name the title and author of books clearly when reading stories, and encourage children to listen to the initial sounds of words.

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

Staff know the children well and are positive role models. They place great emphasis on the well-being of the children and compliment children when they share and take turns. This promotes their self-esteem. Children behave well because staff remind them about the ground rules and boundaries of the setting. Children enjoy using tools to peel and cut fruit for snacks and they grow and prepare their own vegetables. This helps them to learn about healthy foods. Staff help children to successfully prepare for their move to school. For example, children put on and take off their coats and shoes, and manage their own personal hygiene.

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

The manager and staff team make effective use of the time before and after the session to reflect on and monitor children's progress. They plan effectively by linking children's next steps in learning to further activity plans. This means that all children make good progress in their learning. Staff provide parents with termly assessments of their children's development, and seek their feedback, which helps them to support their children's learning at home. The manager and staff team link with other professionals in order to support children's individual needs. The manager is committed to developing the practice of the well-qualified staff team further. They use self-evaluation successfully and regularly attend training to gain new knowledge. This helps to achieve positive outcomes for children. Since the previous inspection, the manager ensures that all staff update their safeguarding training regularly. They have a good knowledge of child protection and know how to report any concerns for children's welfare. This, along with regular checks of equipment and resources, helps to keep children safe in pre-school.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	127682
<b>Local authority</b>	Kent
<b>Inspection number</b>	846310
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	2 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	18
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	20
<b>Name of provider</b>	Candida Rose Balfour
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	5 July 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	07712 673387

The Children's House Montessori Nursery registered in 1998. It is situated in the village of Birling, near West Malling, Kent. It is open on Mondays to Fridays, from 9.30am until 12.30pm, during school term time. The nursery teaching is influenced by the Montessori approach. The nursery is able to claim nursery education funding for two-, three- and four- year-olds. There are five members of staff, three of whom hold a Montessori qualification at level 4.

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