

The Village Montessori Nursery School

Cock Lane, Bradfield, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 6HW



Inspection date	29 June 2015
Previous inspection date	24 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children of all ages make excellent progress in their learning and development because staff nurture their interests and challenge their thinking.
- Staff work well with parents to implement highly effective support for children's speech and early literacy skills. This is particularly beneficial for children who are learning English as an additional language as they rapidly close gaps in their learning.
- Staff adapt their teaching and use of resources exceptionally well to suit the developmental needs of each child. Staff skilfully ensure that children are confident and have the necessary skills needed for their future learning and school.
- Staff attend training and have a very secure understanding of the comprehensive child protection policy and procedures. This helps staff safeguard children's welfare and keep them safe from risk of harm and neglect.
- Standards of care, welfare, and safety across the setting are high.
- Staff gently model high standards of courtesy, respect and thoughtfulness. Consequently, children are polite and often show self-control and self-confidence.
- The manager monitors the delivery of the educational programmes, planning and assessment very effectively. As a result, staff identify children's individual needs quickly and meet them exceptionally well through the excellent quality of teaching and timely support.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to find out about different ways of life and jobs within the community to extend their understanding of the world further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a wide range of activities across all areas of the nursery and talked with staff and children about what they were doing.
- The inspector reviewed documents and procedures, which included safeguarding, staffing, supervision, risk assessment, equal opportunities, and health and safety.
- The inspector sampled a range of children's records, planning and evaluation, and processes for exchanging information with parents and external professionals.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and reviewed written communication from parents.
- The inspector met with the leadership team and conducted a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Helen Robinshaw

Inspection findings

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

This is an exceptional nursery school. Children flourish as they experiment with an abundance of high quality educational resources indoors. They delight in adventures and explorations of the exciting outdoor areas. Children climb, make dens and hold tea parties in hideaway lookouts. Highly qualified and experienced staff use these rich learning environments to spark children's enthusiasm and encourage their desire for further knowledge. Staff meet all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage admirably while applying the Montessori philosophy. Staff complete sharply focused observations and assessments of children's daily achievements. They work respectfully with parents, know children's current interests and shape purposeful activities that challenge children exceptionally well. However, staff miss some opportunities to broaden children's knowledge of their community, such as people's different ways of life and the jobs they do.

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

Young children settle into the rhythm of the nursery extraordinarily quickly. They thrive in the calm atmosphere created by caring staff and the more experienced children. Staff help children understand change and lifecycles as they learn about living things and how to care for them. Staff help children celebrate diversity in nature, people and environments as children learn about the wider world. Children learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe during inspirational practical activities. At the inspection, children helped to prepare the table for meals and tidied away independently and with care. Staff work extremely well with parents as they equip their children socially and emotionally for their move to school and other settings.

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

The headteacher is inspirational. She has led, supervised and worked alongside the team for many years. The breadth of expertise across the staff team is outstanding. They continue to identify and drive forward improvements in the nursery. Regularly updated, comprehensive risk assessments help staff minimise any risk of harm in every area of the nursery. Constant evaluation, staff supervision and training underpin the exceptionally good teaching, high quality activities and exciting opportunities offered to the children. Regular written updates and meetings help parents understand how sharply staff check and review the quality of the nursery and the progress their children make. Management uses highly effective links with outside agencies to secure prompt guidance and support to meet children's individual needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	507891
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	826193
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	36
Number of children on roll	32
Name of provider	Jacqueline Diana MacLean
Date of previous inspection	24 March 2011
Telephone number	0118 9744643 (school)

The Village Montessori Nursery School registered in 1992. It is situated in Bradfield Southend between Newbury and Reading in Berkshire. The nursery school is open during term times from 9am until 3.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and from 9am to 12.15pm on Fridays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years old. The nursery employs 10 staff. The headteacher holds Qualified Teacher Status and the deputy holds Early Years Professional Status. There is one member of staff with a qualification at level 6, one with a qualification at level 5, four with qualifications at level 3 and one with a qualification at level 2.

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