

Blackheath Montessori Centre

Independents Road, Blackheath, London, SE3 9LF



Inspection date

11 June 2015

Previous inspection date

11 December 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff meet the required ratios but do not deploy themselves effectively to meet the individual needs of the children, particularly during lunch and outdoor play.
- The leadership and management team has not taken swift action to address identified inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and learning, which hinders some children from making good progress.
- Staff do not make the most of all opportunities to extend children's learning about how to keep healthy and embed healthy eating habits in them.

It has the following strengths

- Parents express high levels of satisfaction about the nursery and staff, and feel that their children feel safe, happy and secure.
- Children are given plenty of opportunities to make their own choices about their play and they practise becoming independent learners as they complete tasks for themselves.
- Children's behaviour is managed well by staff and, as a result, children are aware of what is expected of them and behave well.
- Staff promote an inclusive setting and support children with a range of needs and abilities well.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure that staff members are deployed effectively so that the needs of children are met at all times, particularly during lunch and outdoor play
- ensure staff supervision and monitoring of practices are used to raise the quality of teaching.

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

- use daily routines to increase children's understanding of how to stay healthy and the importance of good hygiene.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with parents of children attending the setting to gather their views.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with a member of the leadership team.
- Documentation was reviewed, including registers, the complaint log, records of medicine given and staff records.
- The inspector had discussions with staff and children, and looked at learning records of children.
- The inspector observed children playing in all areas, inside and outside, and observed how they were supported by staff.

Inspector

Anne Jacobs

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Children choose and complete tasks with staff on hand to support their learning. They recognise and name numbers and are helped to link sounds to letters. They use their smaller muscles as they cut using scissors, write simple words, and use creative ideas to make bracelets together. Children show excitement as they watch a paper volcano erupt as staff add vinegar and baking soda. Staff know children well and share information about children's learning with parents, with whom they have good relationships. However, staff do not consistently focus on the identified needs of all children and enable any gaps in learning to be promptly addressed. Staff generally provide a warm and stable environment in which children learn. However, the quality of staff's interactions and teaching with children is variable. Children do, however, enjoy weekly dance and language sessions that reinforce their developing communication and physical skills.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff welcome children with a range of needs and abilities. Parents and children are happy to arrive and strong family links are nurtured between them and the staff. Staff help children to become confident learners and develop their emotional well-being. This prepares children well for their next stage in learning and their eventual move on to school. Staff provide healthy snacks, but do not extend on this to make the most of opportunities to help children understand the importance of healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. Staff are not always effectively deployed to ensure children's individual needs are being well met, particularly at mealtimes and during outdoor play. Staff understand how to keep children safe and they give them clear information about how they can keep themselves safe. All staff are trained in first aid. Staff are aware of child protection procedures and know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The leadership and management of the setting are sound. However, they have not accurately identified what needs to develop further in order to make improvements and meet all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Management has identified some areas where they can improve their practice. However, supervision and monitoring of staff practice are not effective at improving the quality of teaching. The staff work well with health professionals to provide a shared approach to meeting their needs. Management provides regular training opportunities for staff to help improve their knowledge.

Setting details

Unique reference number	129010
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	825463
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	31
Name of provider	Blackheath Montessori Centre Limited
Date of previous inspection	11 December 2008
Telephone number	020 8852 6765

Blackheath Montessori Day Nursery was registered in 1993 and operates in the Blackheath Village area of the London Borough of Lewisham. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 48 weeks per year. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. There are twelve members of staff, of whom two hold relevant childcare qualifications to level 3 and five to level 4. The nursery follows the Montessori approach.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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