

Neasden Montessori School



St. Catherines Church Hall, Dudden Hill Lane, LONDON, NW2 7RX

Inspection date	27 April 2018
Previous inspection date	3 May 2017

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager and staff team work closely together to further enhance the quality of their practice and children's experiences. For example, they have re-organised some activities to make them more appropriate for the younger children.
- Staff offer a welcoming and nurturing learning environment. Children settle well and play happily. They are confident to ask for help when they need it and they behave well.
- Staff develop strong partnerships with parents and successfully encourage them to contribute to their children's learning. For instance, staff regularly discuss children's progress and suggest activities they can continue at home with their children.
- Staff have good relationships with external agencies. They work in partnership to coordinate care for children who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities to ensure they receive the support they need to learn and develop.
- The majority of children speak English as an additional language and are developing good communication skills. Staff support their emerging language well through modelling, repetition and using gestures.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times staff do not make the most of opportunities to provide further challenge to extend children's learning as they engage in activities.
- Some group times are not organised as effectively as possible to enable all children to become fully involved.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support staff to recognise when to build on children's interest in activities, to offer even greater challenge to extend their learning further
- review the organisation and size of some group activities to enable all children to fully engage.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching as staff engaged in activities with children in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector spoke to parents and staff, and engaged with the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector engaged in a joint observation with the provider and discussed aspects of teaching and learning observed.
- The inspector held a leadership and management meeting with the provider.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including children's records, staff files and some of the written policies and procedures.

Inspector

Samantha Smith

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff fully understand their responsibilities to protect children from harm and are aware of the procedures to follow should they have a concern about a child. Robust recruitment and vetting arrangements are in place to ensure that staff's suitability is effectively checked. Staff have regular supervision meetings and appraisals with the provider, and are encouraged to attend training to extend their knowledge and skills. This helps them to continually improve their practice and outcomes for children. The provider effectively monitors children's overall progress and tracks different groups of children. She makes good use of the information gathered to address any identified gaps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs and target their interactions with them accordingly. They motivate children to investigate and explore their own ideas, through providing a wide range of resources, and join in children's play to facilitate their learning further. Children show good levels of independence and curiosity and are keen to explore new things. They are happy to engage in their own play and pursue their own ideas. They also engage confidently in play with others, sharing and taking turns with resources. Children develop a positive sense of themselves and good awareness of people from different communities. They explore with different resources and materials that represent various cultures from around the world.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote children's personal, social and emotional needs well. Key persons develop strong relationships with parents with whom they engage with regularly to promote consistency in their learning. There are effective systems in place to support children who have SEN. The SEN coordinator for the setting works closely with key persons and other professionals to support children's individual needs and provide specific learning opportunities. Children regularly participate in exercise and physical activities, indoors and outdoors. They competently use a selection of different tools in their play. For example, they handle tongs to pick up objects and pour their own drinks. Staff promote children's confidence through the good use of praise and rewards, and they deliver clear and consistent messages. This enables children's to learn how to behave well, respect and understand the needs of others, and consider the consequences of their actions.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning taking, into account their varying starting points. They acquire key skills, knowledge and attitudes that prepare them well for starting school. Children whose starting points are below usual expectations make consistently good progress, particularly in their language development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	137827
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	1099397
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Firstpride Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP527926
Date of previous inspection	3 May 2017
Telephone number	020 8208 1631

Neasden Montessori School registered in 1985 and is situated in St Catherine's Church Hall in Neasden in the London Borough of Brent. It operates weekdays between 9am and 3pm during term time. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. A team of seven staff works with the children. Of these, five staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 and 4. The nursery follows the Montessori educational philosophy.

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