

Bobtails Montessori Nursery School

Adversane Hall, Billingshurst RH14 9JN



Inspection date	20 March 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of 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

- Staff know children well. They have a good understanding of their individual stages of development and how to support their ongoing learning. All children make good progress in preparation for their future learning.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Managers and staff have worked hard to gain their feedback which has enabled them to make improvements to the way they communicate with them. For example, the introduction of online learning journals has had a positive impact on parents' involvement in their children's learning.
- The managers have a positive attitude towards continuous development. Since registering, they have introduced weekly outdoor learning sessions for children due to parents requesting more opportunities for children to access the outdoors.
- Managers and staff have good partnerships with other settings and professionals who support children's learning. They regularly share information with them and discuss children's progress to help provide a consistent approach to their ongoing development.
- At times, staff do not arrange activities in the best possible way in order to enable the youngest children to take part effectively.
- Occasionally, staff miss opportunities to support and challenge children's mathematical knowledge and understanding.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure the arrangement of activities enable all children, especially the youngest, to get the most out of the learning opportunities on offer
- develop staff's awareness of opportunities to consistently support and develop children's understanding of mathematics.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and staff's interactions with children.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took part in a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector viewed a range of written documentation and tracked some children's progress.
- The inspector spoke to some parents to gain their views and feedback on the setting and staff.

Inspector

Hannah Barter

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a confident knowledge of their procedures and what to do if they have concerns about children's safety or well-being. All staff receive regular training as well as subscribing to early years websites and forums. This enables them to keep up to date with any changes in practice and legislation. Managers support staff effectively. As well as working together on a daily basis, they have regular supervisions and annual appraisals to discuss their personal development. Staff training is very much focused on children's individual needs. This ensures that all children's individual health and development needs are met at all times. The managers have a secure understanding of children's progress. They regularly review tracking documents and discuss with staff how best to further support children's learning to ensure that they are making consistently good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting. Staff have a good knowledge of children's interests and overall, use this to provide engaging activities and learning opportunities. For example, as younger children explored trains, staff used this as an opportunity to develop their knowledge of colours and promote their language skills, commenting, 'Red, you have a red train'. Older children have a good understanding of how to use the Montessori equipment. They confidently complete pieces of work, such as placing pegs into boards to create patterns and putting cylinders into size order. Children enjoy being active and taking part in music and movement sessions. They follow instructions well and confidently sing along and copy actions.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have secure relationships with staff and each other. They seek out staff for cuddles and affection and are pleased to see their friends arrive. Children behave well and have a good understanding of what staff expect from them. For example, staff clearly explained that once the sand timer had finished, it would be time to tidy up. All children help take responsibility for their environment and are highly independent. Children have good social skills and show care and consideration towards each other. They understand the importance of sharing, taking turns and listening to others. For example, they sat together for circle time and said good morning to each other. Children waited patiently for their turn and listened to what was going to happen next.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those with special educational needs, are making good progress in preparation for future learning and the move to school. Children are highly confident and active learners who are not afraid to try new challenges. They enjoy listening to stories and are beginning to explore pictures to enable them to say what they think is going to happen next.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY539047
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10089434
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	22
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Sequoia Montessori Partnership
Registered person unique reference number	RP539046
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01403 786176

Bobtails Montessori Nursery School has been established since 2000. It re-registered in 2016 under new ownership and operates from the community building in Adversane, West Sussex. The setting is open from Monday to Thursday from 8.45am to 4.15pm and Friday from 8.45am to 12.30pm during term time only. The setting receives funding for free early education to children aged two, three and four years. The setting employs six staff, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification.

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