

Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 130764

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Inspector Chris Mackinnon

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Registered person Teresa Elliott

Type of inspection Integrated

Type of care Sessional care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School was first registered in 1993 and is located in Rottingdean village hall. The setting offers morning sessions only and is open from 09.00 until 12.55, Monday to Friday during term-time only. Children use the large main hall for their activities and also make regular trips to the nearby Grange gardens and seaside. The setting is registered for a maximum of 24 children aged from two to five years. There are currently 19 children on roll with 10 receiving funding for nursery education. The setting is able to care for children with disabilities and also for children with English as an additional language. There is a staff team of three and all have either Montessori or other early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy and free from infection, by staff following well organised procedures to support children's hygiene needs. Children's desire for independence in their personal care

is effectively supported by the Montessori system, which encourages children to wash their own plates and cups and learn how to use cleaning materials. Children have well organised and healthy snacks, that include a choice of drinks and a selection of fresh fruits. Staff have experience of allergies and take care to support children's individual dietary needs. Much active role-play and frequent music and movement sessions are enjoyed by children, which effectively supports their healthy growth and desire to be expressive. The provision of a broad range of well organised physical activities within the setting's planned play programme, also successfully supports children's physical development and confidence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a safe and well organised play environment, that is well prepared and welcoming for children. Children are protected from accidents and kept secure by close staff supervision and an effective range of safety procedures. Children are encouraged to play safely together and staff have a clear awareness of the need for safety when on outings. A good range of Montessori learning resources are provided and children successfully explore numbers, shapes and sensory items. Many assembly resources and art-crafts materials are also included, but children's access to technology based resources is limited. Children are also expressive and imaginative with role-play resources. Children's welfare is effectively supported by trained and experienced staff who have a clear awareness of the need to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the play and learning environment and engage in a wide range of stimulating activities. Many well organised Montessori based tasks and materials are provided to support children's progress and development. Children explore numbers and counting and learn shapes and letters. Children have many good quality adult-child interactions and their use of words and language is well supported. The creative use of art-craft materials and assembly resources is encouraged and children are also helped to develop many practical manual skills. Children are imaginative and invent their own games and adapt resources. Staff also include a good range of activities to encourage children's awareness of the wider world. Children are introduced to nature and have regular trips to a nearby garden and the sea-side. The staff team are confident and experienced and successfully support children's enjoying and achieving.

Nursery Education.

The teaching and learning is good. Children enjoy their learning and take part in a well organised Montessori programme. Staff provide a wide range of learning materials, with many task based activities provided. Staff also provide learning activities for children that demonstrate an effective knowledge of all six learning areas. Much manual skill is developed and children are encouraged to seek help to solve problems. Children learn about number, shapes and sizes and children are also able to improvise and adapt resources to support their own play ideas. Staff encourage children successfully to use a wide range of tools during many table-top activities and staff also support children's enjoyment of books with regular story-times. Children also effectively learn to recognise letters and write their names. Staff ensure children's physical development is effectively supported and many active group games are enjoyed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy at the setting and enjoy playing and exploring resources together. Staff support children effectively in learning to be clean and tidy and take turns, which fosters social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. Staff give close consideration to developing children's social confidence and involvement in the group. Children's behaviour is effectively managed and children are encouraged to be helpful to each other. The setting has experience of caring for children with disabilities and a good range of activities are provided to support children's awareness of the wider world. The setting provides parents with clear details of the learning programme and information on children's progress. Parents also have helpful and consistent contact with staff.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents are effectively provided with clear information on the setting's early learning programme and range of activities. Staff are consistent in taking regular notes and observations of individual children's learning progress. Parents are provided with clear info on their children's activities every day and parents also have access to their children's development records. Staff are well motivated and organise frequent meetings with parents to discuss their children's progress. Parents are also invited on outings and visits to the children's garden. The setting is supportive of parents and parents may visit or stay with their children to support their play and learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the setting's well organised play and learning environment. Children's practical and manual skills are effectively encouraged and a good range of early learning opportunities are also provided. A broad and varied range of play and learning resources also supports children effectively in being creative and expressive. Children are closely guided by qualified and experienced staff, who are effectively deployed to support children and provide frequent individual attention. The setting's record keeping and policy documents are all well organised and clearly maintained. The supervisor and staff work effectively as a team to ensure the safe and successful management of the nursery school. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

The leadership and management is good. The setting has a well planned learning programme based on the Montessori system. Care has been taken to ensure the six learning areas are also included in the planning. Clear written guidance is provided for staff on the effective organisation of resources and activities. Staff demonstrate an effective understanding of all six learning areas and undertake frequent observations of individual children's achievements. Detailed individual learning profiles are kept, to show how children develop within the Montessori system, but the recording of children's progress through the six early learning areas requires improvement. Staff are well motivated and have frequent meetings to evaluate the effectiveness of the learning programme. The supervisor provides clear leadership to a well qualified and experienced staff team, who successfully encourage and develop children's learning.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the setting has revised the child protection policy, providing improved outcomes for children in Staying Safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- provide more opportunities for children to access technology based play and learning resources

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop the Montessori based progress records to include children's development through the six early learning areas

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk