

Elizabeth's Montessori Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY348270
Inspection date	13 July 2007
Inspector	Carol Newman
Setting Address	The Baptist Church, 1 Balaclava Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5PN
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Registered person	Elizabeth's Montessori Nursery Ltd
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day 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

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Elizabeth's Montessori Nursery is owned by Elizabeth's Montessori Nursery Ltd. It opened in 2007 and operates from the hall within the Baptist Church in Surbiton, in the London Borough of Kingston. There is a separate room for children to rest and children have access to a small outside play space. Children are taken to the park which is situated within close vicinity of the setting.

A maximum of 24 children may attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 20 children aged from two to under five years on roll. The nursery is open from 08:00 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year and sessional places are available. Procedures are in place to support children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs five members of staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications and three are currently completing a training programme. All staff hold a current first aid certificate.

The setting are working towards receiving funding for nursery education. The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. Children wash their hands after playing outside, visiting the toilet and before meals, using liquid soap and separate hand towels. This helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. All members of staff hold a current first aid certificate and written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment is in place. This ensures children's welfare in the event of an accident and where parents and emergency contacts are not available.

Children benefit from healthy snacks, such as fruit and milk, which they serve for themselves from the snack table. Young children are encouraged to be independent and make choices about their snacks in accordance with the Birth to three matters guidance. A satisfactory variety of nutritious meals are cooked, on the premises, by the staff. All children eat together making it a social event and children eat enthusiastically.

Documentation is in place to record food intake and nappy changing to ensure a healthy balance is maintained. However, on the day of inspection, nappy changing records were not completed effectively. This means accurate records were not in place to promote the children's health and to inform parents.

Children enjoy daily physical exercise that contributes to keeping them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Staff organise the indoor space effectively, allowing children to move around safely, freely and independently. Displays of children's work create a welcoming environment and show that staff value the children's contributions.

Children freely help themselves to a wide range of good quality toys and resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. They are encouraged to tidy up before getting something else out, in accordance with the Montessori ethos of the setting. A separate quiet area, equipped with books and large cushions, encourages children to relax and read in comfort.

Children benefit from a range of safety measures, for example socket and radiator covers, an effective emergency evacuation procedure and a secure outdoor play area. However, the smoke alarm in the kitchen was not in working order on the day of inspection and the daily checks and regular risk assessments were not in place and available for inspection. This compromises the day to day safety of the children.

Good routines and gentle reminders help children learn about safety within the setting. For example, children are asked to walk carefully, using 'walking Feet', indoors.

Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding children issues and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care. This supports children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that are stimulating and well balanced for all ages. In addition to the Montessori programme, children enjoy using their imagination in the well equipped role play area, the sand tray and at the painting easel.

Staff encourage children to explore, using the magnets, to find out what materials stick. They dance along to 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and know which shape they are standing on when the music stops. This activity helps to develop their knowledge of the properties of shapes and also develops their physical skills. Good use is made of the daily routine as children count the number of placemats they need as they set the lunch table.

Children benefit from outings and visitors to the group, such as the Fire Service, the Police Community Support Officer and regular trips to the park. This helps children to understand and learn from their local environment and people in the community.

Staff make regular observations and record achievements in children's profiles. This helps the staff plan for each child to ensure their learning and developmental needs are met. Staff identify the next steps for each child through the Montessori 'three period lesson' and ensure these are focussed on during individual activities for each child. Children are actively involved in their learning. They are confident, work well independently, take initiative and show high levels of concentration.

Staff use the Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage curriculum, in conjunction with the Montessori materials, to plan a stimulating learning programme for the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the world through Montessori activities that introduce them to other cultures. A good range of activities and resources develop children's understanding of diversity. Staff treat children with respect and use lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem.

Staff offer good support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Staff are secure in their understanding of the code of practice, which means they are able to meet and plan for children's individual needs.

Staff make expectations of behaviour clear and give reasons for requests, ensuring children understand why certain behaviour is not acceptable. Staff support younger children well in sharing and turn taking. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly and patiently. This encourages children to respond effectively to guidance and praise.

A good partnership with parents contributes to children's well-being while at the nursery. All relevant information is gathered on the registration form to ensure children are cared for according to parents' wishes. Information is provided for parents through displays, newsletters and regular informal feedback. Key workers are available if a parent wishes to discuss their child's progress in depth.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are well organised and staff demonstrate a good understanding of their role in supporting the children in their play and learning. There are suitable procedures in place for appointing new staff. However, a staff appraisal system to facilitate staff development is not in place.

All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the nursery is in place. This contributes to the welfare of the children. However, some documentation is not consistently maintained and records of incidents and existing injuries are not confidential.

A range of policies and procedures are in place to guide staff in their daily practice. Good staffing ratios are maintained and staff work directly with the children at all times.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take 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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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

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):

- ensure food intake and nappy changing records are completed accurately to establish that a healthy balance is maintained
- ensure all smoke alarms are maintained in working order and regularly tested
- ensure risk assessments are regularly conducted and reviewed and that any action to be taken to minimise identified risks is clearly documented in an action plan
- ensure all records are well maintained and confidential, particularly with regard to records of incidents and existing injuries.

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