

# Christchurch Montessori

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY373992
<b>Inspection date</b>	16/12/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Lorraine Sparey
<b>Setting address</b>	247 Fairmile Road, CHRISTCHURCH, Dorset, BH23 2LH
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<b>Type of setting</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises

## Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

Children only attend this setting before and/or after the school day and/or during the school holidays. The judgements in this report reflect the quality of early years provision offered to children during those periods.

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

## Description of the setting

Christchurch Montessori full day care is privately owned and one of three settings they operate in the local area. It operates from a large converted house in Christchurch. The children use ground floor playrooms and the building is accessible to all. There is a secure enclosed area for outdoor play.

The group is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. A maximum of 18 children may attend at any one time and there are currently 10 children on roll in the early years age group. The nursery opens Monday to Friday 08:00 to 18:00, 48 weeks of the year.

A team of three staff work with the children, two of whom are qualified in early years. The setting follows the Montessori approach and receives support from the Local Authority.

## Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are making good progress in their development and learning. They participate in a broad range of activities and use a wide range of high-quality Montessori materials to support their progress. Staff implement appropriate procedures to ensure that individual children's needs are met. The management have implemented some systems to monitor and evaluate the provision. However, these are not yet fully developed.

## What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- ensure that staff are familiar with the risk assessments and action is taken to identify and address hazards and potential risks
- develop effective systems to monitor and evaluate the provision offered

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that there is an accurate record of children's actual hours of attendance (Documentation)

22/12/2008

## The leadership and management of the early years provision

The setting has a comprehensive range of policies and procedures to support staff in meeting children's welfare, learning and development needs. Staff demonstrate knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children. They are able to identify possible signs and symptoms of potential abuse and appropriate procedures to follow in the event of a concern being raised. Risk assessments are completed to

create a safe and secure environment. However, some hazards within the garden area have not been included and therefore the risks have not been assessed. For example, a brick construction within the raised area and raised flower beds. Most documentation is in place. However, some children are not signed in when they arrive. Therefore, there is not an accurate record of children's attendance. Appropriate recruitment and vetting procedures ensure that children are cared for by suitable adults. All staff are encouraged to attend training to update their knowledge and skills.

The management and staff are devising systems to monitor and evaluate the provision. However, these are not yet fully developed to effectively assess the children's progress. All of their three settings meet together to assess areas of strength within the nurseries and areas to develop. An action plan sets out the areas they are intending to address. For example, plans are in place to create an outdoor play room in the garden.

A comprehensive parent welcome pack provides parents and carers with information on the Montessori ethos, the role of the teacher and how parents can be involved in their children's learning. Basic information is sought when the child starts at the provision to enable staff to meet their needs. Staff spend time at the beginning and end of the day providing parents with opportunities to informally discuss their children's progress. The setting is beginning to develop systems to liaise with other settings that the children may attend to ensure a consistent approach in their learning.

## **The quality and standards of the early years provision**

Children are confident and motivated in their learning. They independently choose from good quality resources available throughout the nursery. Staff are skilled at presenting the Montessori equipment and encouraging children to explore and learn. Children persevere until they have completed the activity to their satisfaction. They enjoy balancing on a board, showing good control as they move the ball bearing around the outside rim. Staff use effective questioning to maximise learning opportunities. For example, during a story, staff talk with the children about what happens when we put food in the oven. Children reply, 'It cooks', and go on to explain how the oven is hot and ice cream would melt if you put it inside. Children learn about the natural world through caring for nursery pets and growing hyacinth bulbs, watching the roots through the glass vases.

Children's behaviour is good given their age and stage of development. They show consideration to the staff and their peers. Children respond well to the staff's consistent use of praise and encouragement. Children participate in activities to support local charities and develop good links within the community. They have opportunities to go on outings to places of interest such as, Avon Country Park. Children follow appropriate hygiene routines and have good opportunities to exercise and play in the fresh air. Children are encouraged to consider their own safety at all times. Staff explain about risks such as, being careful climbing the steps in the garden.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?</b>	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	3
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

### Leadership and management

<b>How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?</b>	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	3
How well are children safeguarded?	3

### Quality and standards

<b>How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?</b>	2
<b>How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?</b>	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## **Annex B: the Childcare Register**

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are: Met

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Met

## **Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted**

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

### **Detail of the complaint/s**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.