

# The Montessori Nursery School

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY369051
<b>Inspection date</b>	15/10/2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Milton
<b>Setting address</b>	Village Hall, Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount, CHINNOR, Oxfordshire, OX39 4SW
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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).

## **Description of the setting**

The nursery was established approximately 17 years ago and was registered under new ownership in 2008. The nursery operates from rooms within the village hall in Kingston Blount near Chinnor in Oxfordshire and the intake of children is from the local community. There is access to outdoor play facilities on the adjacent playing field and in a cordoned area outside the hall. The premises are accessible and there are facilities on site for disabled persons.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register and a maximum of 27 children may attend at any one time in the early years age range. There are currently 19 children on roll between the ages of two years six months and five years. The nursery opens during school term times on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 09.15 to 12.00 and 12.45 to 15.00 with an optional lunch club.

The nursery employs five staff who have an appropriate range of qualifications including some with Montessori teaching diplomas. The setting promotes a Montessori approach to education and has achieved the Oxfordshire quality assurance award 'Partners in Quality'.

## **Overall effectiveness of the early years provision**

Children are making very good progress due to the individual attention they receive from the competent team of staff. The adults caring for children recognise and value their unique qualities so that the programme of activities is inclusive to all abilities and stages of development. Staff identify areas for improvement within the nursery and make realistic action plans to address any weaknesses. Effective partnerships with parents are built up over time and this helps to create the friendly family atmosphere at the nursery.

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

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

- ensure staff have easy access to the full range of information relating to the area of child protection
- provide children with a more comfortable area for rest

## **The leadership and management of the early years provision**

The nursery is successfully organised on a day-to-day basis by an experienced manager. The small team of staff work consistently well together with sessions running seamlessly. Staff are clear about their roles within the nursery and they receive good support to attend regular updates on training courses to refresh their skills. The staff make effective use of weekly meetings to discuss the needs of each child and to plan improvements to the nursery. The action plans focus on

issues that bring about direct benefits to the children. A recent purchase, for example of new equipment to support knowledge of technology is very well received by the children. Staff use their regular and thorough risk assessments to monitor safety and reduce potential hazards. The staff are vigilant in safeguarding children and ensure adults working in the nursery undertake suitable checks. Staff are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to child protection, though some potentially useful reference materials are not easily accessible. Documentation is neatly organised and the policies are shared with parents so all are clear about the procedures that are in place to effectively support the children's learning and development. Information for parents is of a good quality and regular colourful newsletters ensure a good two-way flow of useful details. Parents speak of their high levels of satisfaction with the quality of care their children receive.

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

Children settle quickly when they arrive at nursery and the opening circle time provides them with a calm and friendly welcome. Children take turns to speak to the group and are proud to share objects brought from home to link with a current theme, listening intently to a musical box tune for example. Children concentrate well at chosen games and they receive very good support to their learning from the staff. Questions extend children's thinking and there is scope for more able children to progress at their own pace. Staff make effective use of their observations of the children's development to plan their next steps in learning and weekly planning sheets remind staff of specific targets for children. This close attention means staff quickly identify when children require support for learning difficulties or disabilities. The staff collect information from parents about what children can do when they start nursery so that they can track progress. The staff are confident and knowledgeable in the way they organise the setting and plan activities bringing together the Montessori approach and the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Children play safely and are gaining a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe as they carefully carry scissors or move chairs. The staff have a number of effective procedures in place to record children's presence at the setting and to ensure they are safe from harm. Children enjoy times of physical activity as they master skills like jumping, hopping and skipping though these times tend to be adult-led until the planned new outdoor area is accessible. Children are developing their sense of rhythm and movement as they take part in action songs and play percussion instruments. They learn about their local environment with seasonal walks to the nearby allotments or apple orchard and this helps to reinforce their understanding of the natural world.

Children express their imagination as they make up stories using props in the role play area or experiment with paint and collage materials. Staff introduce festivals and resources from a wide range of cultures to help develop the children's respect for others. Children behave very well at nursery and the support to their behaviour is excellent. The staff act as extremely good role models to the children and positive behaviour is promoted consistently well. This creates a peaceful atmosphere where young children develop a healthy respect for their peers. Children are developing good levels of independence as they select activities and treat equipment with care.

They enjoy visiting the snack table where they happily choose fruits from the daily selection and proceed to wash up their own cup and plate as part of the routine. Some children stay all day at nursery and although quiet activities provide a break there is no really comfortable area for them to rest. Children are progressing well with aspects of early number as they confidently sort by shape or size and work out simple mathematical problems such as are there more boys or girls attending. The children are familiar with the shapes and sounds of letters and those who are ready progress well with early writing. The stimulating selection of high quality resources available to children means they are interested in what is happening at nursery and motivated to learn through play.

## Annex A: record of inspection judgements

### 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*

### Overall effectiveness

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

### Leadership and management

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

### Quality and standards

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

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 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**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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.