



## **MMI Pre School**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY303578
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mauvene Burke
<b>Setting Address</b>	MMI House, 142 Mitcham Lane, London, SW16 6NS
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8769 5555
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Registered person</b>	Modern Montessori International
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Full day 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](http://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?

Modern Montessori International pre-school centre was registered in 2005. The nursery operates from a converted three storey house. Children are accommodated in three rooms, one of which has been divided into four rooms. A maximum of 30 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 17 children on roll, aged from 6 months to under 5 years. None of the children are receiving funding for nursery education, although the centre has

applied for funding. The centre currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The centre employs four staff and one trainee. All of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. The manager and one other staff member are trained Montessori teachers. The trainee is working towards a Montessori Diploma.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming environment. Children's toys, furniture and equipment are cleaned regularly to ensure children's good health is maintained. Although very young, the children themselves are beginning to learn about good hygiene practices because staff are promoting self-care by encouraging them to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, staff are not always insistent that the children do this, and as a result children do not always carry out these important hygiene procedures. Staff mostly follow good procedures to prevent the spread of cross infection. For example, they use gloves when changing children's nappies and use anti-bacterial sprays to clean areas used by the children. However, there are times when staff do not always effectively carry out procedures such as the regular washing of hands before handling food. This means children are not totally protected from the spread of infection. All staff working directly with children have a certificate in first aid.

Children are provided with a healthy early morning breakfast consisting of cereals and milk. Their parents provide them with their lunch which is warmed up by staff. Older children are beginning to learn about healthy eating through topics like the Good Food Pyramid which shows foods which are good for us and those that are not. Children do not have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day.

Children's physical development is generally encouraged well. Babies enjoy moving around the room and are given adequate space to sit, crawl and attempt to pull themselves up and walk. Staff sit on the floor and encourage babies to extend these skills, by offering toys for them to reach for. Children are given daily opportunities to play outdoors in the garden where they have access to equipment that helps to develop their physical skills. For example, children are confident when climbing and when using the small pedal bikes.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment, both indoors and outdoors. They have adequate space to play in and areas are made comfortable by the effective use of furniture and equipment. Children eat at low tables and chairs and babies have a carpeted area for extra comfort, furnished with cushions. Children

have their own mattresses and bedding for rests. They select resources from a range of toys and equipment which meets safety standards. Attention to safety education is good. For example, children are informed about the dangers of standing on chairs and picking up chairs that have been knocked over.

Children's complete safety is not fully safeguarded as staff, most of whom are new and still being inducted, do not have a secure knowledge of the fire evacuation procedures and fire drills have not yet been carried out.

Children are adequately protected from abuse as staff recognise their responsibilities towards them and have a good understanding of what to do if concerns arise about possible abuse or neglect. Staff do not, however, have procedures that would be followed in the event of an allegation being made against one of them.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Babies are developing early communication skills as they draw the attention of staff who respond to their sounds during play. They enjoy the colours and sounds of manufactured toys which they explore with interest. However, there are limited opportunities for them to explore natural materials and build on their own curiosity. They benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home. Staff are using the Birth to three matters framework to help support younger children attending. This ensures that the environment in the baby and toddler rooms is organised to enable children to learn through play.

Children are gaining confidence in their relationships with staff. Toddlers play happily together and with adults and enjoy Circle Time where they join in with familiar rhymes. These are adapted slightly to make them personal to the children, singing "Baa Baa Red Sheep" and linking it to a child wearing that colour. They also sing the "Good Morning" song where they say good morning or good afternoon to each other individually.

During set times of the day, children aged 2 years old and over move to the room upstairs where they engage in the Montessori Curriculum.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and those with English as a second language are warmly welcomed into the nursery. The staff are getting to know the children via the information which is collated when children first start and through speaking with parents. Resources which positively represent the children are limited, but children aged from 2 years are being taught about the wider world during cultural studies under the Montessori curriculum. This helps children develop a positive attitude to others. Considering the children in attendance are relatively new to this setting, they have for the most part settled well and their behaviour is good. They are

learning to share and to take turns and staff are consistent in their approach to managing their behaviour. Children are calm and respond well to adults as staff speak to them in a calm and reassuring manner.

The partnership between staff and parents is developing slowly and on the whole, parents speak favourably of the nursery and are happy with the service it provides. However, the manager has yet to introduce a key worker system, which will help to provide a more effective communication between staff and parents. Presently, parents receive a daily written report on what their child has been doing on that particular day and some basic information in the handbook tells them about the Montessori curriculum programme. They do not have direct access to what their children are learning, for example, the daily plans which include the components of the Birth to Three Matters framework.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The nursery recently opened in October 2005 and is still very much in its infancy. Staff are in the process of settling new children, many of whom have never been separated from their main carer before. Nonetheless, children are settling in quickly and the transition is going smoothly in most cases. The staff team are also very new and are not yet familiar with all the policies and procedures of the nursery and are therefore still being inducted. They have not yet developed as a team and there is no key worker system in place which would promote a more effective partnership with parents.

The registered person uses effective recruitment procedures which ensure that staff are appropriately vetted and qualified. All staff working with the children are suitably qualified and although the staff member working with the babies does not yet have a suitable qualification to do so, she is in the process of commencing a level 3 qualification.

In general, the premises are organised well. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. Children are currently grouped according to their age, with children aged 2 to 5 years receiving Montessori teaching. Staff are deployed well throughout the day, with occasions arising when it is possible for children to receive one-to-one attention.

Most of the legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Some of this is in the process of being reviewed.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

No applicable

## Complaints since the last inspection

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.

## 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):

- improve hygiene standards by ensuring staff wash their hands before handling food and encourage children to wash their hands before meals and after playing outside
- ensure that children have regular access to fresh drinking water throughout the day
- ensure that staff are aware of fire evacuation procedures, that these procedures are displayed and that fire drills are carried out periodically
- up-date the child protection policy to include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff
- provide children with a wider variety of activities which allow them to explore, investigate and handle natural materials
- improve communication with parents by introducing a key worker system and by making details of the curriculum more accessible to them

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