

Shamley Green Montessori Pre-School



Christchurch Hall, Church Hill, Shamley Green, GUILDFORD, GU5 0RS

Inspection date

22 January 2015

Previous inspection date

15 June 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The staff team demonstrate an excellent knowledge of how children learn and use both the Montessori method and its links with the Early Years Foundation Stage. They seamlessly blend the two approaches and children are very confident, engaged learners.
- Staff provide an inspiring learning environment in which children enjoy a range of learning experiences and are able follow their own interests, indoors and outdoors. As a result, children are extremely happy and settled, and show high levels of confidence, self-esteem and an eagerness to learn.
- Children are developing excellent independence and practical life skills as they manage tasks and self-care skills by themselves in preparation for school.
- Secure bonds are seen throughout the nursery as a result of the inspirational interactions between adults and children.
- The nursery staff follow robust procedures which give the highest priority to the safety, welfare and well-being of children. Children are supported by staff in developing their understanding of how to keep themselves healthy and safe.
- Excellent relationships are established with parents and this makes a very strong contribution in enabling all children to make excellent progress in relation to their starting points.
- The provider's drive to invest in building a dynamic and highly skilled leadership team is inspirational. Targeted professional development is highly focused on identified areas for continual improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- enhance the excellent learning and development opportunities for the eldest and most able children by, for example, involving children more in reviewing their own progress and setting their own goals.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and staff interaction indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector talked with available staff and parents, and held discussions with the owner.
- The inspector examined documentation, including a representative sample of children's records, policies, staff training records and staff suitability records.
- The inspector looked at arrangements for keeping children safe.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.

Inspector

Nadia Mahabir

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

All staff have an excellent understanding of child development and provide wonderful activities to enhance children's learning. They use their expertise to combine this with the Montessori method of education. As a result, they are highly motivated, secure and enthusiastic. Children's communication and language skills are excellent. Staff take every opportunity to model and extend these through play activities and at mealtimes. For example, children are captivated as a member of staff shares a book. She reads with animation, pacing the story well and allowing children to become actively involved. Staff make frequent, highly skilled observations of children's achievements and plan timely activities to target children's next steps for learning. These are recorded in individual diaries, which the parents also have personal access to at home or in the nursery. Consequently, all children make excellent progress in relation to their starting points.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Secure emotional bonds are seen throughout the nursery due to the excellent interactions between adults and children. Arrangements to help children settle into the pre-school and build secure physical and emotional attachments with the staff are highly effective. The children are familiar with the setting's strong emphasis on grace and courtesy. As a result, they are very well behaved and show high levels of self-esteem. Children develop excellent self-care skills as they put on their own coats and gloves before going outside. Children eat very well. They bring in healthy lunches and enjoy a morning snack where staff help them to use a knife safely to cut their fruit. Children are all responsible for clearing up after their snack and lunch. This means that children are superbly independent and have a great respect for their environment.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

Safeguarding is given the utmost priority and all staff are clear of their role and responsibilities in protecting children. There are robust procedures for recruitment, vetting and induction to assess the suitability of staff working with children in line with the safer recruitment guidance. The pre-school strives continuously to maintain very high standards through the dedication of the staff team. They are able to identify their key strengths and recognise how further development will enhance their already high-quality service. For example, staff recognise how children are not fully involved in contributing to setting their own goals for their future learning. Partnerships with parents are exemplary. Parents spoken to at the inspection said they were delighted with their children's progress and commented on the exceptional level of care that they felt is provided by the staff. Staff build very effective partnerships with other professionals and feeder schools, sharing information frequently to ensure children benefit from a highly consistent approach.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348113
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	828542
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Shirley Ann Aldworth
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2011
Telephone number	07786 677913

Shamley Green Montessori Pre-School opened in 2007. It operates from the church room within Christchurch Hall, Shamley Green, near Guildford, Surrey. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register. It opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 9.15am until 12.30pm, with an optional lunch session provided every day to 1.15pm where children bring a packed lunch. The setting is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four. The pre-school is an accredited Montessori setting and is registered to accept Montessori Centre International student teachers. There are seven staff members who work with the children, of whom five hold relevant early years qualifications or higher; of these, four hold Montessori qualifications and one holds Early Years Professional Status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

