

Blue Butterfly Montessori

5 Barrow Point Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3HQ



Inspection date

5 March 2015

Previous inspection date

28 March 2014

	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The organisation of staff does not meet the needs of the children at all times, particularly during busy routine events in the day, such as lunchtime.
- Staff do not recognise the impact of the high noise levels in some of the rooms as children play, which has a negative impact on children's communication and language skills. In addition, some staff lack knowledge of how to extend children's vocabularies and conversational skills during activities.
- Staff serving and handling hot meals for children have not been trained in food hygiene, which compromises children's welfare.
- Staff do not make the best use of the outdoor environment to fully support those children who learn best outdoors.

It has the following strengths

- Partnership working has developed well. There are effective communication methods in place to keep parents well informed and be involved in their child's learning.
- Staff are aware of observing children's learning and development. These records contain useful information, such as children's starting points and tracking documents, to help support future plans for each child.
- Staff build children's independence and encourage them to manage their own self-care, which prepares them for their future move to school.
- Staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding children and the procedures to follow if they are concerned about a child's welfare.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- improve the staffing arrangements so that the needs of all children are prioritised, particularly during routine tasks and transition periods during the day
- help children to increase their vocabulary and listening skills as well as possible by providing a calm learning environment and providing more encouragement for children to talk through and comment on their play activities
- ensure that all staff handling and preparing food for children have completed food hygiene training.

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

- make better use of the outdoor play environment to support those children who learn best outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors spent the majority of inspection time observing the children in the nursery and garden as they played.
- The inspectors sampled children's information and development records.
- The inspectors held discussions with the manager and deputy manager.
- The inspectors held discussions with some parents regarding the nursery.
- The lead inspector and manager completed a joint observation in the pre-school room.

Inspector

Jennifer Devine

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Overall, staff have a sound understanding of the learning and development requirements. They mostly use their knowledge to plan a suitable range of experiences for the children. Staff ensure there are some activities set out, and other resources, including Montessori equipment, are easily accessible to children to also make choices about their play. Children enjoy many activities where they explore and investigate natural materials, as they dig in the sand or feel the texture of shaving foam in their fingers. However, the quality of teaching is variable across the nursery rooms, meaning the progress for some children is unsteady. Staff in the pre-school room do not notice when the noise levels are high. As a result, children are not able to listen and concentrate properly. Some staff lack a secure understanding of how to extend children's vocabularies and do not always encourage interaction during activities or at mealtimes. In other rooms, staff sometimes prioritise administrative tasks over children's needs. Consequently, children are not purposefully engaged at this times.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Staff have a secure understanding of the purpose of the key-person system. They establish good relationships with parents and include home visits so they get to know each child prior to starting. This helps support their emotional security and confidence. The nursery is welcoming and has suitable space for children to play. Children play in a secure environment because staff carry out daily checks to ensure the nursery is safe. The outdoor area is spacious and enables children to run around and release their energy. It is well resourced with outdoor play equipment. However, staff do not plan to include the free use of the outdoors to improve opportunities for children who learn better outdoors.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The staff have addressed the actions made at the last inspection and this ensures that children's overall safety is maintained. However, staff do not always organise themselves and work effectively together. For example, during lunchtime, some staff are occupied with updating the email messages to parents rather than supervising and interacting with children. As a result, when some children ask for more food, staff do not always hear them immediately and act on their requests. Staff have regular supervision to look at their professional development, and attend some training courses. However, not all staff who serve and handle food have completed the required food hygiene training. This is a breach of the welfare requirements and compromises children's health and well-being.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY438813
Local authority	Harrow
Inspection number	982386
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	75
Number of children on roll	67
Name of provider	Blue Butterfly Limited
Date of previous inspection	28 March 2014
Telephone number	02084299446

Blue Butterfly Montessori registered in 2011. The nursery is privately owned and operates in Pinner, in the London Borough of Harrow. The nursery is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery receives funding for free early education for three- and four-year-olds. The nursery employs 19 staff, of whom 17 staff hold appropriate childcare qualifications at level 3 and above. One member of staff holds Early Years Professional Status.

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