

Footprints Montessori Day Nursery



Long Reach, West Horsley, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey, KT24 6LZ

Inspection date	20 April 2015
Previous inspection date	12 October 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	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

- Teaching is consistently of a very high quality. As a result, all children make very rapid progress given their starting points and capabilities.
- Staff provide an excellent range of challenging activities to promote children's learning across all areas of development.
- Staff support children who speak English as an additional language and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities exceptionally well.
- Staff have excellent partnerships with parents. They consistently work closely with them to ensure that all children make rapid progress in their learning and development.
- Children form secure and meaningful relationships with their key person. As a result, they settle quickly and develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem.
- The nursery is exceptionally well led and managed. Sharply focused monitoring and self-evaluation means that there is continuous improvement to maintain the highest levels of achievement for all children.
- Staff have an excellent understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. They regularly refresh their knowledge of safeguarding procedures. Staff supervise children vigilantly at all times. The premises are safe and secure. This means that children are extremely safe at the nursery.
- The outdoor learning experiences are excellent. Staff provide many opportunities for children to learn new skills as they explore their natural environments.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further enhance children's exploration and curiosity skills, to encourage the ways in which children problem solve independently.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the nursery and took part in a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider and management team throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held discussions with key persons and staff.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents obtained in person on the day.
- The inspector looked at various documents, including policies and procedures, risk assessments, staff training, records of children and evidence of the suitability of staff.

Inspector

Jane Franks

Inspection findings

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

Staff have an excellent understanding of how young children learn. They extend children's learning, reflecting on their individual interests, and follow the directions in which children lead their play. For example, children worked as a team and created a spaceship in the woods. Staff extended their levels of mathematical learning. They incorporated an understanding of size and shape as children collected the resources they needed in their natural environment. Younger children develop their coordination and early awareness of colours and patterns as they transport sand into buckets with diggers and containers. Generally, staff use questions and further prompts extremely skilfully to enhance children's problem-solving skills. All staff work in close partnership with other professionals to support and promote every child's needs through a shared approach. Parents comment that staff are passionate about moving children forward.

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

Staff know the children and their families very well. They adapt their nursery routines to reflect on children's individual needs. This means that new children settle quickly. Staff display resources attractively and ensure that they are within the children's reach. As a result, children show great independence in choosing what they play with. Babies explore and access a wide range of sensory and musical toys, which develops their learning. Staff consistently reinforce their expectations for children's behaviour. They are excellent role models to children. This means that children learn to behave very well, to make friends, and to get on with others. Staff provide children with excellent opportunities to be active and to manage risks through outdoor play and regular physical activities. Staff teach children about healthy food and lifestyles. Parents comment they are very happy with the nutritious homemade food their children receive.

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

Management's drive for improvement underpins the outstanding progress that children make. The monitoring of staff practice and individual children's progress is very well focused and precise. For example, management identified the need to strengthen opportunities for children to develop their creativity skills further. Staff successfully introduced new ideas. For example, all children, including babies, are involved in creating displays around the rooms. This helps them to feel valued and respected. As a result, they thrive and reach their full potential. Management has met all recommendations from the last inspection. Recent training means that staff use their well-focused observations of children at play to plan precise activities which build on individual children's next steps in learning. This has led to significant improvements in children's welfare, learning and development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY304311
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	834128
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	101
Name of provider	Footprints Montessori Day Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	12 October 2010
Telephone number	01483 285591

Footprints Montessori Day Nursery Ltd first opened in 2005. It is a privately owned setting, which operates from converted premises in West Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey. It is open each weekday, from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year, excluding the week between Christmas and New Year and bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three- and four-years old. The nursery employs 23 members of staff, including the qualified owner. Of the 23 staff, 22 hold qualifications ranging from level 2 up to Early Years Teacher Status. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy of teaching.

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