

Great Beginnings Montessori Nursery School

The Advent Centre, 37 Brendon Street, London, W1H 5JE



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

21 April 2015

25 March 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
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		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children develop excellent independent and self-help skills, which successfully prepare them for the next steps in their learning.
- Staff have high expectations of all the children. They use their strong knowledge of the children, and of how they learn and develop, to provide a wide range of challenging and highly stimulating experiences. As a result, children become active learners.
- Staff are excellent role models; children are happy, learn to cooperate and show increasing self-control. The atmosphere in the nursery is calm and purposeful.
- The provider and her team are vigilant and have a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. Policies and procedures are followed consistently and staff are confident in their understanding of child protection issues. This helps to keep children safe.
- There is a very strong relationship with parents and other professionals. This ensures that children receive all the support they need to learn and achieve, and that transfers to other settings are successful.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the organisation of large group activities by staff, particularly in the infant room, means that some children are not fully occupied or engaged.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the organisation of large group activities in order to identify individual needs within the group and fully involve and extend all children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting with the provider.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector observed children's activities in all of the classrooms and outside.
- The inspector discussed child protection and safety procedures with the staff.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the provider and held a leadership and management meeting, where key documentation was sampled.

Inspector

Carolina Montesinos

Inspection findings

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

Staff teaching is rooted in a good understanding of how children learn. Staff are skilled at knowing how and when to extend and intervene to enable children to make the most out of learning opportunities. For example, younger children enjoy singing traditional songs as they play with small world toys relating to the city of London, and talk confidently about the well-known landmarks and their experiences. However, occasionally, large group activities at snack time are less well planned and children lose interest. Nonetheless, children benefit from prolonged periods of uninterrupted time to play and experiment, which ensures that they remain engaged and focused on activities. Children develop strong skills by asking questions and solving problems, which helps to ensure that they are well prepared for starting school. Planning and assessment arrangements are precise and staff target any additional needs effectively. As a result, all children make good progress from their starting points on entry.

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

Children are happy and have excellent relationships with the staff. The settling-in process works effectively and helps children to form strong bonds. Staff prepare children exceptionally well for change. Children develop strong relationships with other children, make choices confidently and take risks in their learning. Staff promote children's awareness of healthy lifestyles successfully. They provide children with healthy snacks, such as a wide variety of fresh fruit, and work in partnership with parents to provide healthy packed lunches. Staff encourage children to practice good hygiene routines and promote their understanding of how to manage their own personal needs. Children benefit from having additional dance and movement sessions and going for walks in the local parks. Staff skillfully teach children about safety and ensure that all areas children access are safe.

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

The provider has a good understanding of the learning and development, and safeguarding and welfare requirements. She supervises and monitors staff performance well and supports their ongoing professional development. For example, staff have attended courses on supporting bilingualism to improve outcomes for children. All staff are suitably vetted and recruitment procedures are robust, thus protecting children. The provider evaluates practice with the staff to identify weaknesses and make improvements, ensuring children's ongoing progress. The provider involves parents in the evaluation process through planned and informal meetings and parent surveys. This promotes strong partnerships. The staff work closely with external agencies and local schools to meet children's individual needs effectively.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY301187
Local authority	Westminster
Inspection number	847410
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	70
Number of children on roll	69
Name of provider	Wendy Heather Innes
Date of previous inspection	25 March 2009
Telephone number	020 72581066

Great Beginnings Montessori Nursery School registered in 1983 and is located in the City of Westminster. It is open every weekday, from 8.45am to 3.30pm, during term time only. There are 13 members of staff, including the director, and 11 staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The setting operates in line with the Montessori educational philosophy. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three- and four-years-old.

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