

# Little Sweethearts Montessori School

St Saviours Church Hall, Warwick Avenue, London, W9 2PT



<b>Inspection date</b>	24 April 2015
Previous inspection date	13 January 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	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		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting <b>meets legal requirements for early years settings</b>			

## Summary of key findings for parents

### This provision is good

- Children develop strong independence and self-helps skills. They access an environment rich in resources and learning experiences, which promotes their knowledge of language, literacy and mathematics. All of this prepares children well for the next steps in their learning.
- Staff are well qualified and are passionate about promoting children's learning and development. They observe and assess children's progress regularly and use this information effectively to inform future planning. As a result, all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress from their starting points on entry.
- Staff are good role models and provide secure relationships to children. Therefore, children behave very well according to their age and show they are happy to learn.
- Staff promote strong partnerships with parents and other professionals. They ensure that parents are well informed about their child's development and that all children receive appropriate support to close any gaps in learning and make good progress.
- Management implements rigorous and effective systems for self-evaluation, which is used to set challenging targets for improvement, taking into account the views of staff, parents and children.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, staff are not fully successful in ensuring group-based activities reflect children's individual learning needs. As a result, some children lose interest.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review planning of group activities to carefully reflect children's individual learning needs.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises with the manager.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector observed children's activities and sampled children's records.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the provider.
- The inspector held a leadership and management meeting with the provider and sampled key documentation.

### Inspector

Carolina Montesinos

## Inspection findings

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

The quality of teaching is good. Staff enable children to access a good mixture of structured and uninterrupted time to play and explore. Therefore, children show good levels of involvement in their activities and enjoyment in play. However, at times some group activities do not always closely target individual needs, which results in some children losing interest. Children access a wide range of natural and practical-life resources based on the Montessori method. They have great fun using sponges and plastic syringes to extract water from a container to fill another. Older children choose to complete number puzzles and practice reading with the help of the staff. Young children learn to use large-muscle skills, as they roll up their work mats after play. Such activities challenge their abilities and support school readiness. Staff work closely with other professionals, such as speech and language therapists to access support and help children make progress.

### **The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good**

Staff prepare children well for changes in routines and for their move into a new room. They have a friendly and caring approach, which helps children to feel secure and develop good bonds. Staff teach and demonstrate good manners to children, including how to use resources appropriately. This promotes positive relationships and ensures the environment is calm and purposeful. Staff work closely with parents to promote healthy lifestyles and offer nutritious snacks for all children. Children learn to manage their own personal needs through daily health routines, such as washing their hands, pouring their own drinks and choosing their snack. Children have daily access to regular physical exercise and fresh air. Staff organise visits to an allocated play area at the local school and plan indoor movement activities. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and know what to do if they are concerned about a child. This helps protect children's welfare.

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

The provider has a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Recruitment procedures are robust, which means all staff are suitable to work with children. The manager spends time working directly with the staff and children, which enables her to monitor practice. The provider uses supervision meetings and appraisals to identify the training needs of staff who are enthusiastic about new ideas. For example, staff plan creative drawing activities for the children, after having attended an arts seminar. Most staff are well qualified and some are completing a degree level qualification. This has a positive impact on the outcomes for children. The provider prioritises children's safety and ensures staff attend up-to-date training in paediatric first aid and safeguarding. Staff check the premises daily to ensure they are safe for children.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	135056
<b>Local authority</b>	Westminster
<b>Inspection number</b>	846428
<b>Type of provision</b>	Full-time provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	87
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	114
<b>Name of provider</b>	Little Sweethearts Nursery School Limited
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	13 January 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 7266 1616

Little Sweethearts Montessori Nursery School registered in 1995 and is located in the City of Westminster. The nursery school operates every weekday from 8.45am to 3.30pm, during term-time only. The provider employs 18 staff. Of these, 17 hold relevant qualifications from levels 2 to 6. The nursery school follows the Montessori method of teaching.

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