

Neasden Montessori School



St. Catherines Church Hall, Dudden Hill Lane, LONDON, NW2 7RX

Inspection date

7 May 2015

Previous inspection date

20 May 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
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		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 meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Staff implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well in line with the setting's teaching philosophy, based on the Montessori approach.
- Staff are well deployed to support children to be active learners. They have good teaching skills and interact well with the children to support their development. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and are well prepared with the necessary skills for school.
- Staff provide a friendly and welcoming environment for children. They implement a secure key-person system and good care practices, which meet children's individual needs. Consequently, children are happy, settled and form good relationships with staff.
- The manager and staff show a strong commitment to improvement. They have ongoing plans for future development and make effective use of networking and training opportunities to continually improve their knowledge and skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not always provide natural materials and resources to enable children to play together and fully develop their sensory experiences to further aid their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the range of natural materials and resources readily available to develop children's sensory learning experiences further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spent the majority of inspection time observing the children in the nursery as they played.
- The inspector sampled children's information and development records.
- The inspector held discussions with the manager.
- The inspector talked to parents to obtain their views about the nursery.
- The inspector and manager completed a joint observation in the garden.

Inspector

Jennifer Devine

Inspection findings

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

Staff maintain children's learning profiles well. They contain relevant information on children's starting points on entry, which they use to monitor progress and regularly share with parents. Additionally, staff record precise assessments for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to ensure their individual needs are met. Therefore, all children make good progress in their learning and development in relation to their starting points. Staff make available a range of purposeful activities to promote all areas of learning. Children confidently choose an activity and learn about tidying away afterwards and returning the equipment to its correct shelving. There is a good balance of resources available for the varying age groups, including a range of role play toys to support children's imagination. Pre-school age children particularly enjoy some challenging resources, such as when they match three letter words to objects. They also spend considerable amounts of time drawing and forming letters. This demonstrates that staff promote their early literacy skills effectively in preparation for school.

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

The nursery staff provide a welcoming environment with plenty of space for children to move around in. Children have use of a playroom and free access to the garden for most of the day. Children receive lots of reassurance as they separate from their parents or carers and settle in well. The routine of the day is flexible and this enables children to continue with their learning without disruption. Staff plan singing group times, but children can choose to join in or play with other resources. They are able to choose when they would like to have their snack and show good independence in going to the bathroom unaided. Staff welcome parents into the nursery and encourage them to share information about their child to promote continuity in their learning and care. Staff maintain good links with other professionals to support the particular needs of children.

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

The staff team has made considerable improvements since the last inspection. This includes ensuring that the safeguarding policies and procedures are up to date and include the use of cameras within the setting. In addition, all staff have refreshed their safeguarding knowledge and are aware of their responsibilities if they have any concerns about a child in their care. The manager carries out effective staff supervisions and appraisals to ensure staff receive ongoing support in understanding their roles. Staff meetings are held regularly where staff input ideas and receive feedback to drive improvement. The manager effectively promotes staff training to support ongoing professional development and to help improve outcomes for all children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	137827
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	1012434
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	35
Number of children on roll	61
Name of provider	Firstpride Limited t/a Neasden Montessori School
Date of previous inspection	20 May 2014
Telephone number	020 8208 1631

Neasden Montessori School registered in 1985 and operates from a church hall in Neasden, in the London Borough of Brent. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3pm, term times only. The provider receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three and four years. The nursery follows the Montessori educational philosophy. The provider employs seven staff, of whom five staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 and 4.

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