

Blue Skies Montessori Nursery

Frankton Road, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 7FB



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

6 May 2015

28 September 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		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 have a comprehensive understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implement these effectively, in order to provide a good standard of care and teaching for children.
- All staff have a thorough knowledge of the procedures to follow in the event of having any safeguarding concerns about children, in order to protect their welfare. All records, qualifications and documents are in place to support children's welfare.
- Children make good progress in their learning and are rapidly acquiring the skills, confidence and attitudes needed to be ready for school.
- Staff are motivated and enthusiastic when supporting children's learning through play. They make effective use of grouping children for activities based on their progress, in order to further their individual learning.
- Staff provide practical ways for parents to support their children's learning. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress and well-being and have regular opportunities to contribute.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The well-established systems for setting targets to enhance staff teaching does not make the best use of staff's views, in addition to those of managers.
- Not all resources are easily accessible for enriching children's learning in the role-play area for children aged from two to three years.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make greater use of staff's views and observations of their teaching and that of others, in order to set more precise targets to enhance their practice
- enhance the accessibility of resources to enrich role play for children aged two to three years, in order to extend the existing good opportunities for children to learn through imaginative play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the playrooms and the outdoor area, and also viewed toys, resources and equipment.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of staff and managers, along with evidence of the qualifications held by staff.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager of the nursery, and the inspector also spoke to members of staff when appropriate.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation and discussed the ways in which the nursery is evaluated, in order to make plans for improvement.
- The inspector also took account of the views of children and parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Jennifer Kennaugh

Inspection findings

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

Assessment of children's learning is robust and covers their progress in all areas. Staff then use the detailed assessment information to group children for activities or work with them individually, in order to precisely target their needs. For example, groups of children who are competent at adding objects, learn about subtracting to extend their skills, while children who are less confident spend more time on recognition of numbers individually with staff. Staff teach children to think critically, such as when they encourage children to think of lists of words that rhyme. This also supports children's enjoyment of literacy, as they are clearly proud of their competence in this. Staff effectively support children to sustain concentration on their chosen play by asking questions, such as in the role-play area for children aged two to three years. However, staff have not given sufficient consideration to how to make resources easily accessible to enhance learning through role play. For example, the many baskets of natural materials, and objects with a variety of textures and sizes are not stored close to the role-play area. This means that children do not incorporate these into their play, and opportunities to enhance children's descriptive language through their use are missed.

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

Staff provide good support for children to build their confidence and self-esteem. For example, they regularly use games where each child has the opportunity to dance or sing in front of others. This also enables children to learn to take turns. Children have good opportunities to challenge their coordination skills and take small risks in their outdoor play through climbing and balancing. They learn where food come from by growing fruit and vegetables, which they help to prepare before eating. This also helps children to learn about food that contribute to a balanced diet. Children quickly develop the manipulative skills needed for independence, such as fastening buttons and turning keys, through activities provided by staff. They learn routines for managing their own hygiene quickly. Staff teach children about road and fire safety, using visits from the emergency services and during spontaneous play opportunities. Partnerships with other settings, such as local schools, effectively support children's emotional well-being at times of change, such as when they leave the nursery.

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

The nursery has effective methods in place to manage staff performance and their training needs. However, staff skills are largely enhanced through feedback from managers, with less use made of staff's own reflections, such as from observing each other. This means that some information is not used to enable staff to build on their current good standard of teaching. The presence of two early years professionals, and the owner's commitment to maintaining low ratios of children to staff means that children are provided with consistently good or sometimes better, support for their learning. Staff are required to work towards qualifications at level 3, in order to enhance their practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY367125
Local authority	Bury
Inspection number	857827
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	26
Name of provider	Blue Skies Montessori Nursery Ltd
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2009
Telephone number	01617 678100

Blue Skies Montessori Nursery was registered in 2008 and is situated in the Whitefield area of Bury, Greater Manchester. The nursery is open Mondays to Fridays from 7.45am to 5.45pm for 51 weeks a year. There are five staff including the owner, of whom two have Early Years Professional status. One member of staff holds a qualification at level 4 and one staff member holds a qualification at level 2. The nursery provides funded, early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. It follows the Montessori approach to early years education.

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