

# Gerrards Cross Montessori School



Methodist Church Hall, Oak End Way, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8BR

## Inspection date

15 May 2015

Previous inspection date

10 March 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		Outstanding	1
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

- The provider and staff team are committed to consistently evaluating and improving the provision and the quality of their practice, to improve outcomes for children.
- Staff complete accurate observations and assessments of children's progress. This means children experience challenging activities that help them to make very good progress.
- Staff work well with parents who are fully involved in all aspects of children's learning, and receive regular information about children's progress and next steps. This includes the completion of the progress check for children aged two-years-old.
- All children show high levels of self-control during activities, confidence in social situations and exceptional independence skills, in readiness for school.
- Children have strong attachments and positive relationships with all staff. There is a highly effective key-person system in place and staff work well together to support children's emotional well-being.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not fully encourage children to use and listen to their home languages in their everyday play and learning. Therefore, they do not take all opportunities to promote children's language development.

## **What the setting needs to do to improve further**

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

- provide more opportunities for children to use their home languages within their play and learning, to promote their communication and language development further.

## **Inspection activities**

- The inspector had a tour of the setting and invited the provider to take part in a joint observation.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider.
- The inspector talked with some children, staff and parents, and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed children and staff engaged in activities.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including some policies and procedures, risk assessments, and records for children and staff.

## **Inspector**

Jane Franks

## 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 consistently good. Staff use their knowledge of how children learn to support and teach children as they play. Therefore, children make good progress. They extend children's thinking by getting down to their level, speaking clearly and skilfully asking questions. Children develop their early writing skills and learn an understanding of letter sounds. Staff encourage children to become involved in stories and rhymes. This prepares children well for the next stages in their learning. Staff ensure children have free access to a wide range of resources that help them to develop independence. For example, children select their own materials and learn how to work as a team to create and construct their own models. Staff promote children's mathematical development well through adult-led learning. Children draw round objects and learn to identify shapes and recognise numbers.

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

The environment is very welcoming. As a result, children feel extremely safe and secure. The small staff team continually shares ideas and experiences. This leads to highly effective planning that reflects the individual needs of all children. Parents speak very highly of the pre-school. They value the extremely caring relationships staff have with their children and the detailed information that staff share with them about their children's routines and learning. Children choose to play either inside or outdoors throughout the day. They develop physically and set their own challenges. For example, they use scooters and learn to balance and manoeuvre independently. They also delight in using a variety of equipment that develops their imaginations, for instance, in the mud kitchen. Children behave well and staff are consistent in praising them. They are kind to one another and enjoy sharing resources and experiences with their friends. Therefore, children develop extremely good levels confidence and self-esteem.

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

The provider has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff complete regular training on safeguarding and are clear about how to respond if they have any concerns about a child's well-being. Robust risk assessments mean children can move around safely. The provider monitors children's progress through effective tracking that identifies any gaps in their learning. Since the last inspection, the provider has successfully addressed all recommendations. The staff team continually seeks ways to improve, through staff supervision meetings and continuous training. For example, they have restructured the learning environment, following training on learning through play. Good partnerships with other professionals consistently meet the individual needs of all children.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	108065
<b>Local authority</b>	Buckinghamshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	835800
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 5
<b>Total number of places</b>	16
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	15
<b>Name of provider</b>	Lorraine Douglas
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	10 March 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	07768 180397

Gerrards Cross Montessori School first registered in 1999. It is a privately owned setting. The school operates from the Methodist Church Hall in Gerrards Cross. The school is open from 9am to 12.45pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, during school term times. A lunch club is offered as required and operates from 12.45pm to 1.15pm. The provider is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two-, three- and four-years-old. The provider employs three staff; of these, two staff hold relevant qualifications at Level 4.

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