

Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School

The Village Hall, Park Road, Rottingdean, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 7HL



Inspection date

21 May 2015

Previous inspection date

18 July 2011

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 are good role models and have very high expectations of children's behaviour. As a result, children share, take turns and behave extremely well in a calm and purposeful environment.
- Children develop high levels of independence because staff enable them to try things out for themselves. For example, staff give children time to try to put on their own shoes before providing appropriate levels of support.
- The manager and the staff have a very good understanding of how children learn and how they develop. Consequently, they plan interesting activities indoors that challenge children to think and use what they already know. This means that all children are keen to learn.
- Children are happy and enthusiastic because they enjoy good relationships with the staff team that care for them. This effectively supports their emotional well-being.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not able to consistently challenge themselves and take risks in the outside environment because opportunities for climbing, balancing, and jumping from a safe height are not always available. This does not promote children's physical development sufficiently well.
- Occasionally, staff do not organise whole-group activities effectively which means that sometimes there are children who do not wish to join in. This does not help all children to benefit from these activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the provision for physical development so that children can learn to manage their own risks and have the opportunity to challenge themselves, for example, by climbing, balancing and jumping safely
- review how staff use whole-group activities, so that all children can participate in a meaningful way.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all areas of the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to all members of staff about their roles and about their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector read documents provided for parents about the nursery and also spoke to one parent and took their views into account.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies, procedures, staff qualifications and suitability documents, and children's development records.

Inspector

Rebecca Swindells

Inspection findings

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

Staff effectively support children who learn in different ways, enabling them to choose resources and where they would like to play. Children show kindness and patience to one another because staff are kind and patient with them. Staff speak very politely and calmly to children and give them time to think of answers before considering what they say. This teaches children good communication skills. Children develop good mathematical skills because staff challenge them with resources, enabling them to measure, count and explore problems. Staff nurture children's curiosity about the natural environment. They ask interesting questions and challenge children to think about what they can see, for example, as they use a magnifying glass to study growing plants. Staff share observations and assessments of children's progress and work with parents and other professionals. This enables them to make personalised plans to support individuals, including those who have additional needs.

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

Children show high levels of self-esteem because staff encourage them to manage tasks for themselves. Staff help children to keep themselves healthy by encouraging them to play outside and by reminding them to drink following exercise. Staff have strong relationships with families and know the children in their care very well. They talk to parents about their children regularly. This means that families are confident that staff are doing the best for their children and feel able to talk to staff freely. Staff support children's move to school very well by meeting with teachers, sharing development records and discussing individual needs. Staff help children to feel confident about going to school by talking to them about the kinds of things they will do with their teachers when they start.

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

The staff team are enthusiastic and all attend regular training to further their skills. Consequently, they help children make good progress. All staff have suitability checks when they start work at the nursery and all have a full understanding of their safeguarding and first-aid responsibilities. This protects children very well. All necessary policies and procedures are in place. The nursery manager is confident in her role and leads her team by example. Staff respect her knowledge and experience, and together create an atmosphere of collaborative learning. This helps the children to see the benefit of team work. Staff regularly ask parents and children what they do well and what they need to improve. Consequently, staff make regular changes to improve practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	130764
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	840810
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Teresa Elliott
Date of previous inspection	18 July 2011
Telephone number	01273 587425

Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School registered in 1993. It operates from the village hall in Rottingdean, East Sussex. The nursery opens five mornings a week during school term times only. Sessions are from 9am to 1pm. The nursery provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years old. The nursery employs four members of staff, two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The staff use Montessori teaching methods.

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