

# St Marks Montessori

St. Mark's Church, St. Mark's Place, London, SW19 7ND



## Inspection date

2 June 2015

Previous inspection date

6 July 2011

<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

- Staff effectively plan for individual children, meeting their needs and interests. As a result, children progress well.
- Staff support children's next steps in all the different areas of learning.
- Staff extend and revisit topics well through effective planning and use of language. As a result, children enjoy and engage in what they are doing in both the indoor and outdoor environments.
- Staff implement structured routines throughout the day; consequently, children behave well.
- Staff maintain positive relationships with local establishments, such as schools, which enable them to meet the needs of children progressing on to school.

### It is not yet outstanding because:

- Some creative activities are too adult-directed. This means children do not have sufficient opportunities to express themselves freely by exploring a variety of materials independently.
- Staff do not always make the most of mealtimes as opportunities to engage children in extended conversations.

## 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 explore a variety of materials and use them to express themselves freely
- make full use of routine opportunities, particularly mealtimes, to engage children in extended conversation to support their social and language skills fully.

## Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector observed children's activities during their play, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector had a discussion with the manager and talked with members of staff.
- The inspector spoke to a parent to gain their views.

## Inspector

Andrea Ulett

## 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. Frequent observations and tracking of children's progress enable staff to identify any gaps within children's learning effectively. As a result, they are meeting the needs of children well. Staff provide children with good opportunities to develop their literacy and mathematics skills. They provide children with opportunities to access resources freely and for children to engage well in what they are doing. This promotes their independence. Staff support children with reading and writing their names and recognising letters in different areas within the environment. For example, children write letters in the sand and use paintbrushes to paint letters, using water in the garden. Staff teach skills which prepare children well for the next stage of their learning.

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

Staff provide a warm, welcoming environment for children to feel confident and happy. They know children well and they motivate and encourage them in what they choose to do. Children begin to develop an awareness of themselves and others. For example, staff ask questions which encourage children to discuss emotions and children engage well as they talk about how they feel. Staff promote healthy lifestyles for children as they encourage them to wash their hands before mealtimes and provide opportunities for daily physical exercise in the garden. Children have access to a wide and varied array of resources to support interesting activities outdoors and which are designed to capture their interests, such as searching for insects. As a result, children develop a good awareness about the environment around them.

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

Managers and staff have a good understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage well and implement them well. They invite parents to contribute to children's learning and development and promote positive relationships with them. Staff have a good level of understanding of safeguarding issues, such as the signs and symptoms of possible harm. Managers implement a robust recruitment process, which promotes children's welfare. They reflect well on their practice to identify their strengths and any areas for improvement, and they set clear targets that result in positive outcomes for children. Termly supervision meetings enable management to observe and review the professional practice of staff, which is beneficial to the outcomes for children. Recent literacy training has enabled staff to improve the way they read stories, to engage children more effectively. This has had a positive impact for all children, especially those who are learning English as an additional language.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	138251
<b>Local authority</b>	Merton
<b>Inspection number</b>	841309
<b>Type of provision</b>	Sessional provision
<b>Registration category</b>	Childcare - Non-Domestic
<b>Age range of children</b>	0 - 8
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	36
<b>Name of provider</b>	Hilda Galustian
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	6 July 2011
<b>Telephone number</b>	07956346938

St Mark's Montessori opened in 1998. It operates from rooms within St Mark's Church in central Wimbledon. The setting is registered on the Early Years Register. The setting is open each weekday during school term time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and on Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 3.15pm. The setting provides free early education for children aged three and four years old. The setting employs six members of staff, all of whom hold Montessori diplomas and are qualified to NVQ Level 4.

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