

Oaklea Montessori at the Windmill Childrens Centre

Windmill Childrens Centre, Mayes Lane, Ramsey, HARWICH, Essex, CO12 5EL



Inspection date

Previous inspection date

11 June 2015

7 December 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
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		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Children are excited, motivated and resourceful young learners from a very early age. Practitioners provide children with a wealth of interesting resources, activities and experiences to help them to make excellent progress across all seven areas of learning.
- Extremely accurate and astutely targeted assessments of children's progress, means that any gaps in children's development are swiftly and proficiently closed. Key persons are extremely knowledgeable about the children in their care. They tailor planning superbly to effectively match children's individual learning styles, stages of development and interests.
- Confident young people move excitedly between the nursery building and the well-presented gardens. Both the indoor and outdoor environments offer children extremely rich and stimulating learning experiences. Children are actively encouraged to guide their own learning and to independently plan how they are going to use the resources and equipment.
- Extremely robust partnerships exist between the nursery, parents, outside professionals and other early years settings that children attend. As a result, every child, including those who speak English as an additional language and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, are superbly supported.
- Children are extremely well protected from harm. Practitioners regularly update their safeguarding knowledge through appropriate training. Management implement and monitor the rigorous systems for risk assessing children's experiences to ensure that they remain safe and secure at all times.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the celebration of children's achievements, for example, by providing a special place where children can display things they have made at nursery to share with parents at the end of the day.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the nursery building and gardens.
- The inspector held discussions with the registered provider, the manager, practitioners and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at records that included children's details, information about practitioners, qualifications and training certificates, accident and medication records and a selection of other relevant documentation.
- The inspector saw evidence of the checks used to assess the suitability of all practitioners.
- The inspector held a joint observation with the manager to review the quality of teaching.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection and through written comments in children's development records and parental questionnaires.

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

Inspection findings

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

Children are extremely excited and yearn to learn in the stimulating and welcoming nursery environment. Practitioners are extremely skilful at recognising children's differing learning styles. They expertly facilitate and plan appropriate activities to enable every child to reach their full potential. For example, babies, who enjoy transporting materials from one place to another are provided with baskets, trolleys and bags to enable them to do so, during their freely chosen play. The enormous wealth of learning experiences provided for children, enables them to make extremely good progress in all areas of learning. As a result, children are expertly prepared for their move to school as confident young learners. Children's achievements are superbly celebrated. However, practitioners do not have a special place where children can present models they have made during the day to share with their parents to further celebrate their success and achievements.

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

Children form excellent and meaningful relationships with their key persons. They develop strong bonds with the manager and provider, who spends valuable time within the nursery rooms forming close and caring relationships with the children. The exemplary key-person system means that every child is superbly supported from their very first visit to the day they leave to go to school or to another provision. Children are provided with extensive natural and man-made resources to enhance their physical development. For example, they proficiently negotiate wooden balancing beams and large tree trunks in the nursery garden. Practitioners deliver their extremely positive behaviour management policy in a calm and gentle manner. As a result, children behave well and show the highest respect for each other and for the adults caring for them. Children are extremely independent and enjoy managing their own needs. Practitioners skilfully facilitate this, preparing them superbly for their next stages of learning.

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

The leadership of this nursery is inspirational. The registered provider and newly appointed manager, work extremely well to support a large team of highly qualified and experienced practitioners. Extensive monitoring is undertaken to evaluate the success of the planning and assessment throughout the nursery. This provides the management team with an extremely acute and targeted knowledge of the development of every child attending. The provider and manager pay meticulous attention to ensuring every practitioner reaches their full potential. The extremely targeted programme of professional development, ensures that practitioners' high-quality practice is deeply rooted in a secure knowledge of how children learn. Partnerships with parents are exemplary. Key persons use their expert knowledge of each child to proficiently support parents in helping their children to become strong, knowledgeable and confident young people. Excellent partnership working with local schools and other early years settings that children attend, enables key persons to fully support all aspects of children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY393135
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	859499
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	96
Name of provider	Oaklea Montessori Community Interest Company
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2009
Telephone number	01206 322996

Oaklea Montessori at the Windmill Children's Centre was registered in 2009. The nursery employs 21 members of childcare staff. Of these, 18 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above, including the manager with Qualified Teacher Status and two other practitioners with Early Years Professional status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The nursery follows the Montessori educational approach.

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