

Sunshine Montessori School



Downley Memorial Hall, High Street, Downley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 5XG

Inspection date	8 July 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 exceptionally independent and confident for their age. They enjoy the highly stimulating environment and the broad range of challenging activities that the staff provide. This motivates them to learn and they make excellent progress from their starting points.
- Planning, observation and assessment are rigorous and carefully monitored by the management team, to ensure the quality of teaching is consistently high.
- Partnerships with parents are highly successful. This means that parents are exceptionally well informed about their children's progress. Parents are actively encouraged to share children's achievements from home. The two-way flow of information helps to provide excellent continuity for children and engages parents in their children's learning.
- The management team monitors practice highly effectively and continuously strives to make improvements. They welcome parents' and children's views to help ensure they maintain extremely high standards, to provide excellent outcomes for children.
- Staff are very knowledgeable and have a very clear understanding of the setting's procedures to protect children's welfare. They know what to do and where to report any concerns. This helps to ensure children's safety.
- Staff use highly effective strategies to engage children and to help them think for themselves. Consequently, children learn to be excellent problem-solvers.
- Staff have a very positive and encouraging teaching approach that is highly effective in supporting children's social development. As a result, children play cooperatively and their behaviour is exemplary.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's literacy skills so as to strengthen their understanding that all print, including that in children's different home languages, has meaning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the areas used by the children.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke with parents, staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection to gain their views.
- The inspector examined a sample of policies, documents and children's records.
- The inspector discussed the self-evaluation process with the manager.

Inspector

Alison Southard

Inspection findings

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

The outstanding quality of teaching provides children with excellent learning opportunities. The learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, is inspiring. Children are supported by highly skilled staff to help ensure they make rapid progress in their learning. Staff skilfully share books with children and discuss differences. They support children's understanding of the world through a variety of activities and discussions. Staff target specific areas of the curriculum through group work. For example, they provide children with excellent opportunities to take turns, hold discussions, and develop early literacy and mathematical skills. Staff provide a variety of activities to support children's physical well-being. Children have opportunities to see an abundance of print to gain an understanding that print carries meaning. However, there is less print in the home languages of children learning English as an additional language. Staff carry out regular observations and assessments of children and use the information to carefully plan for children's individual needs. As a result, they prepare children exceptionally well for the next stage in learning.

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

Staff are extremely nurturing and caring. Consequently, children feel emotionally secure and very safe. Children enjoy very positive relationships with staff. Staff have an excellent knowledge of children's preferences and interests as partnerships with parents are a key strength. For example, staff work extremely well with parents before children start to gather information about the children. This enables staff to plan for children's individual needs from the outset. Children develop exceptional self-care skills in relation to their age and ability. For example, they use knives confidently to help prepare healthy snacks. Children have a very good understanding of healthy lifestyles, such as what is good and bad for their teeth. Staff place a significant importance on helping children learn about safety through regular evacuation drills and discussions about road safety.

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

The management team's highly effective recruitment arrangements, regular supervision, monitoring of staff's practice and evaluation of the provision ensure that the quality of the provision is outstanding. The highly qualified staff team continue to identify training to enhance their professional development. For example, they recently attended training about promoting mathematics and this has enhanced teaching and children's learning. Thorough risk assessments reduce hazards to children so they are able to learn in a safe environment. The management team is highly effective in monitoring children's progress. Children make extremely good progress which prepares them very well for their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	116712
Local authority	Buckinghamshire
Inspection number	881220
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	51
Name of provider	Virginia Margaret Roden
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01494 442 057 or 07731 631 348

Sunshine Montessori School registered in 1997. It is situated in the Downley Memorial Hall in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Opening times are 9am until 3.30pm from Monday to Friday during school term times. A team of 10 staff work with the children; of these, six hold relevant Montessori and early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. In addition to this, the manager has gained Early Years Professional Status. The setting receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged two, three and four years old.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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