

Colourbox Montessori Nursery

St. John the Baptist Church, Church Lane, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1PD



Inspection date	20 October 2015
Previous inspection date	4 February 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager has successfully addressed the action and recommendations raised at the previous inspection. For example, staff now use their accurate assessments of children's learning to consistently monitor and track their progress. Children who speak English as an additional language enjoy rich experiences that help them to become aware of their own and other cultures.
- Staff skilfully make the most of spontaneous events to enhance children's learning. For example, they teach children about different occupations as they watch tree surgeons using large machinery to maintain the trees outside the nursery.
- Children form warm and caring bonds with their key person. They show high levels of self-confidence as they eagerly explore the spacious environment and rich range of high-quality toys and activities.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. The ongoing sharing of information successfully involves parents in every aspect of their children's care and learning. Parents appreciate the wealth of ideas that staff provide to support their children's learning at home. They describe the staff as 'very friendly' and 'caring'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not consistently provided with opportunities to think of their own ideas and ways of solving problems, in order to develop their thinking skills even further.
- The organisation of group activities does not fully extend younger children's listening and attention skills, to further reinforce their interest in books.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- engage children in more opportunities to develop their own ideas and extend their thinking
- strengthen the organisation of group activities to help younger children maintain their attention and interest in books more effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector joined staff and children on a nature walk around the grounds of the adjoining church.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery. She also looked at evidence of the suitability of adults who work for the adjoining church, from an office based within the same building.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and also took account of their written views.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The well-qualified manager and hardworking team of staff run the nursery efficiently and with enthusiasm. They have a secure understanding of their responsibility to meet and implement the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and other government requirements. The arrangements for safeguarding children are effective. For example, staff know how to promptly meet children's needs in the event of a child protection concern. Clear arrangements for staff supervision and opportunities for regular training help to promote good outcomes for all children. Staff who have recently attended training have introduced effective strategies to further support children who speak English as an additional language. The strong contribution from parents, staff and children supports the manager to evaluate and maintain a high-quality provision.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, the quality of teaching is good. Children engage in a wide range of exciting activities that truly reflect their interests. Staff promote children's communication and language development very well. They model effective listening skills and build on children's vocabulary as they teach them the meaning of new words, such as snooze. Older children learn mathematical ideas that help them to match quantities of items to numbers. Younger children use number names as they enthusiastically join in with action songs. They develop superb control and coordination of their hands as they use a range of tools and cutters to create shapes with malleable dough. All children have a strong explorative impulse. They use magnifying glasses to closely examine and make comparisons between the different colours and sizes of leaves they collect on a nature walk. Staff teach them about the environment and how this changes throughout the different seasons of the year.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff create a warm welcoming atmosphere for all children and their families. Staff talk to children about the importance of safety throughout their chosen activities. They provide them with a wide range of healthy nutritious snacks. Staff emphasise the importance of making healthy food choices. Children develop a real sense of responsibility for their environment. They calmly help to tidy away the activities they have finished playing with and take turns to wash up their own plates and cups. Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop good physical skills, outdoors in the fresh air and indoors. Regular use of the adjacent recreation area enables children to run, balance and join in with obstacle courses.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. Staff place a strong emphasis on fostering children's independence. Children learn to link letters to sounds during registration and through play with tactile letters. This helps them to develop good literacy skills. Effective links with local schools support children as they move on to school. Prospective teachers visit them in nursery to create a consistent and complementary approach to their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY419923
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1005808
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	Jennifer Timms
Date of previous inspection	4 February 2015
Telephone number	01279 724 029

Colourbox Montessori Nursery registered in 2011. It operates from a church hall in Loughton. The nursery employs four members of staff, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery is open from 9.15am to 12.15pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 9.15am to 3.15pm on Tuesday. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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