

Pippins Montessori

Whites Farm, Bures Road, White Colne, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2QF



Inspection date

2 December 2015

Previous inspection date

29 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Well-qualified staff plan exciting, challenging activities that reflect children's interests extremely well. Children are tremendously keen to explain what they are doing and staff are highly skilled at moving their learning on through effective questioning and meaningful discussions as they play.
- Children are motivated by the imaginative and stimulating ways activities are presented throughout the nursery. They are totally engaged in their learning and make excellent progress taking into account their starting points and capabilities.
- Leadership and management are inspirational. The manager ensures that all staff provide consistently high-quality teaching and learning for all children. She has created an ethos that is constantly striving to reflect on best practice and still look for ways to improve teaching and children's achievement.
- Superb partnerships with parents are established. Staff fully involve them in children's learning and support them to continue this at home. Parents are extremely well informed about their children's progress and well-being. Staff provide excellent support for all families and ensure they have the guidance they need to take part in a shared approach to children's care and learning.
- Children quickly develop exceptionally strong relationships with their key person, other adults and children. Children are valued as individuals. They have a voice and know that their views matter which enable them to become confident learners. Staff have high expectations for all children. This helps children to flourish, lead and direct their own play, make choices and grow in confidence.
- Staff provide a safe, stimulating but challenging environment to significantly enhance children's health and physical development. They effectively help children understand what makes a healthy lifestyle and how to keep themselves safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore innovative ways to help enhance the already excellent partnership working with parents.

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 completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to the staff and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff demonstrate high levels of understanding about how to protect children. The manager implements extremely robust recruitment and vetting procedures to check staff's suitability. Sharply focused professional development targets are identified for all staff through regular supervisions and observations of teaching practice. These have an extremely positive impact on the high quality and continuous improvement of children's learning experiences. Checks on children's progress are extremely thorough and help to identify any potential learning needs swiftly. Findings are then discussed with parents when targets for improving progress are shared. Parents are fully involved as valued partners and staff recognise how this is integral to high-quality care and education. The manager and her team identify a desire to enhance this even further through the sharing of resources.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff skilfully link the Montessori approach to the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children's right to choose, make decisions and voice their thoughts and opinions is supported exceptionally well. This helps to significantly boost children's confidence, free thinking and independent learning. Children's communication skills are developed exceptionally well as they engage in relaxed and interesting discussions throughout the day. Older children eagerly join in with circle time and take turns to talk about their experiences. Staff teach younger children to clap their hands to match the syllables in their names. An excellent range of mathematical resources encourage positive attitudes to counting and developing problem-solving skills. For example, older children confidently use and understand numbers up to 10 and above. Many can say what happens when items are added or taken away. Babies are extremely confident in their exploration of their environment. They are fascinated by the range of textures and look keenly at books showing great interest in the pictures and sounds.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The first-class environment, the organisation of indoor and outdoor space, furniture and accessible resources facilitate children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle. From an early age, children contribute to the decision making within the nursery. This reflects the high expectations which staff have of children's capabilities. Children's behaviour and attitudes are exemplary and contribute much to their outstanding achievement. Children are empowered to take responsibility for their own safety. They assist in everyday tasks, such as tidying up, and routinely return play materials to their proper places. Children learn to manage risks, in order to keep themselves and others safe, for instance, staff teach them how to lift and carry chairs safely. This underpins children's ability to make a positive contribution and to be successful lifelong learners.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

The outstanding teaching, accurate assessments and high expectations help all groups of children achieve exceptionally well. Children have begun to master vital skills to help make them effective learners and prepare them well for their eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY282196
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	848678
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	45
Number of children on roll	86
Name of provider	Sally Scobie & Anita Huckle Partnership
Date of previous inspection	29 March 2011
Telephone number	01787 228567

Pippins Montessori was registered in 1992. The nursery employs 17 members of staff. Of these, 12 hold an appropriate early years qualification from level 2 to 6, one holds Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery opens Monday to Friday for 47 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 uses Montessori teaching methods.

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