

Summertown Montessori Nurseries



Summertown Church Hall, Portland Road, Oxford, OX2 7EZ

Inspection date

19 November 2015

Previous inspection date

10 June 2015

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision			
	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 key person system is effective which helps to promote children's well-being and independence. Staff gather detailed information from parents to support and meet children's needs on a daily basis. This enables staff to provide appropriate care for them throughout the day.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Parents are well informed about how their children are progressing in their learning. They welcome the ideas given to them about how to support their children's development at home.
- Staff actively support children's speech and language. For example, they skilfully ask children questions and give them time to respond. This helps children to be very confident communicators.
- Staff accurately assess children's development on a regular basis. This enables them to identify any gaps in children's learning and plan effectively to provide the necessary support to help close them. Therefore, children make good progress in their learning from their starting points.
- Leaders and managers work together to drive and improve the outcomes for children. They effectively use the process of self-evaluation and seek the views of parents in order to develop and improve the nursery further.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not consistently use varied and imaginative experiences to engage younger children in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the organisation of large group activities to sustain younger children's concentration and enable them to participate throughout the activity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities both inside and outside and assessed how well staff supported children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views on the quality of the provision.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's development records and staff information.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the owner to assess the quality of teaching.

Inspector

Maria Conroy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Leaders and managers have successfully made improvements to the nursery since their last inspection. They have reflected on information gathered through the process of self-evaluation, and targeted areas that required additional support. The environment has been reviewed and improved. It now offers designated areas of learning with a wide range of good-quality resources to meet the needs and interests of the children attending. The quality of teaching is effectively monitored and there are regular opportunities for supervision and staff meetings. Safeguarding is effective. All staff have completed safeguarding training, and new staff participate in a detailed induction. Staff implement robust risk assessments to keep children safe. For example, children hold on to the walking bus rope and staff count them when they move from the garden to the indoor play area.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good for older children and generally good for those who are younger. Staff plan and provide activities which clearly link to the children's interests and their developmental needs. They have effectively implemented systems to enable them to track children's individual progress. Staff use this information successfully, along with observations, to provide a variety of experiences that extend children's learning. Staff support children in their play and learning and provide opportunities for children to explore for themselves. Children are developing early literacy skills. They learn to recognise letters and write their own name. There are regular opportunities for developing mathematical skills. For example, children construct an aeroplane using bricks and staff support them to problem solve, identify shapes and count.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for children and their parents. Therefore, children separate from their parents easily and settle quickly. They explore and investigate with confidence. Staff plan activities to help children learn how to share, take turns and acknowledge everyone's individuality. During circle time, children confidently talk about how they have helped others and been kind to their friends. Staff offer regular opportunities for children to learn in the outdoor environment, which promotes their good health. They enjoy jumping in puddles, digging in the sand and planting bulbs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their individual starting points. They are motivated and eager to learn. Staff identify children with additional learning needs and provide support so that any gaps in development close quickly. Children express themselves confidently and staff provide them with many opportunities to develop their independence skills. Therefore, they are well prepared for their next stage of learning, including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408460
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	1027897
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	18
Name of provider	Montessori North Oxford Limited
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2015
Telephone number	07720 715 021

Summertown Montessori Nursery registered under Montessori North Oxford Ltd in 2010. It is one of two nurseries owned by the same company in the north Oxford area. The nursery operates from a church hall in the Summertown area of Oxford. It is open on weekdays all year, except for a week at Easter and two weeks at Christmas. The main sessions are from 8am until 3.15pm. An early years after-school provision is available from 3pm until 5.30pm. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four. A team of five members of staff work with the children. Each member of staff holds a relevant qualification ranging from level 2 to level 6. One of the company's owners has Early Years Professional Status.

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