

Sitara Toto Montessori

Scout Activity Centre, Well End Road, Well End, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 5PR



Inspection date

3 February 2016

Previous inspection date

9 June 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

- The provider is highly qualified and extremely experienced. She is passionate about delivering excellent quality care and learning for children. Staff continually extend their knowledge, they enthusiastically implement new ideas and successfully motivate children to learn.
- The highly skilled staff provide a wide range of rich, varied and imaginative educational activities that promote children's learning exceptionally well. All children demonstrate high levels of independence. They reach a level of development typical for their age, with many children exceeding expectations.
- The quality of teaching is excellent. Staff are supremely knowledgeable about how children learn. They passionately follow children's interests and skilfully extend their learning. Children keenly explore and make independent choices about what they want to do both indoors and outdoors.
- Staff support children who speak English as an additional language extremely well. They expertly use a broad range of teaching skills to help children make connections in relation to their play and learning.
- Partnership working is exceptional. Parents speak extremely highly of the service provided to them and their children. They love the informative events that are organised. Parents also appreciate the support they receive from the staff and the excellent communication between the setting, home and other professionals involved in their children's lives.
- Staff meticulously evaluate the setting. The management team carries out robust data analysis. They continually check the progress of individuals and different groups of children to maintain the highest levels of achievement. The early intervention to close gaps in learning helps children to make significant gains in their progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the impact on children's physical development and ability to explore, following implementation of the planned extended use of the exciting outdoor areas.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, and evidence of the suitability of the provider and staff working with the children.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the provider and held a meeting with her and the manager.
- The inspector considered the views of parents as expressed in written documents and in discussions during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation including the self-evaluation, the safeguarding policy and risk assessments.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The provider follows robust procedures for the recruitment and induction of new staff. All staff attend safeguarding and first-aid training. They have a comprehensive understanding of the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child. Policies and procedures are regularly updated and staff confidently implement these. The provider is committed to continually giving staff opportunities to update their skills. This underpins their excellent practice. Staff benefit from regular supervision meetings. Their enthusiasm significantly enhances children's learning. They successfully implement new ideas gained from training, such as introducing Forest School activities. The provider shares information with parents in a variety of ways. For example, parents have access to a broad range of literature about children's development and welfare. The provider and staff reflect in detail on their practice and they strive for excellence. They are planning changes to the ways in which children use the excellent and already extremely well-resourced outdoor areas.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The knowledgeable staff use highly effective teaching strategies to challenge and motivate children. For example, children's interest in aeroplanes leads to the setting up of an airport role-play area. Children's language capability and imagination develops as they discuss their destinations and prepare for 'take off'. They practise a range of skills, including early writing skills when they make their own passports. Staff use Montessori teaching resources extremely well to promote children's learning, such as their understanding of mathematical ideas. Younger children delight in discovering how to successfully use the equipment. The highly experienced staff interact sensitively with children and provide them with realistic extra challenges. This helps children to make rapid progress in their learning. Staff skilfully guide children's conversations and build their language development at all times.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are extremely warm and caring. They expertly help children to feel settled and emotionally secure. The key-person system is highly effective, supporting children's individual needs. Staff know children exceptionally well and praise them for persevering at tasks. They help children to have a positive approach to learning and be confident to try new skills. Staff give children consistent messages, helping them to behave very well and to be well mannered. Children show an excellent understanding of how to attend to their own personal needs and they demonstrate excellent independent skills. Staff encourage children to think about their safety during their play through skilful questioning. For instance, children decide that they need to go one way along the pretend run way to avoid bumping into each other.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from where they started in their learning, including those who speak English as an additional language. Children are extremely well prepared for their next stage in their learning, such as starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY284043
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	848698
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	22
Name of provider	Shital Shah
Date of previous inspection	9 June 2011
Telephone number	0208 3270209 or 07962 058712

Sitara Tota Montessori is one of two settings operated by the provider. It was registered in 2004. The setting is open each weekday during term time from 8.30am until 3pm. It employs seven members of staff. Of these, four hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and the majority of staff are Montessori trained. The manager holds Montessori Teacher Status. The provider holds Qualified Teacher Status and the Early Years Professional status. The setting supports children who speak English as an additional language. The setting has received an award for childcare services.

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