

Bishops Stortford Montessori Nursery

The Pavilion Nursery, Hockerill Sports Club, Beldams Lane, BISHOP'S STORTFORD,
Hertfordshire, CM23 5LG



Inspection date

19 April 2016

Previous inspection date

10 May 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 and her staff pride themselves on their extremely strong monitoring of children on entry to the nursery. This helps them to identify any significant issues related to children's development or health needs. Staff signpost parents to the appropriate professionals and offer parents ongoing help and support.
- Staff regularly check the nursery environments and take action to make sure that they remain safe. Children are included in lots of discussions about safety. This helps to promote their understanding about how to keep themselves safe extremely well.
- The long-standing staff team provides a nurturing environment. The key-person system helps children and their parents to build very strong bonds with staff.
- Children spend lengthy periods of time engaged in activities that stimulate their curiosity and interest. During make-believe play, children confidently contribute their unique ideas, building storylines.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although staff are generally well supported through performance management, the process is not yet robust enough to maintain and continually develop the quality of teaching at an outstanding level. The manager has not used sharp evaluations of staff practice to inform a focused programme of ongoing professional development.
- The manager and her staff have not fully explored the different ways that they could share ideas with parents about how they could further support their child's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend staff's ongoing professional development to identify and extend the use of further training opportunities that strengthen their existing knowledge and teaching skills even further
- explore a range of ways in which to offer parents more ideas and guidance to support their children's learning at home.

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 held discussions with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of those working in the setting.
- The inspector spoke to a selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Ann Cozzi

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff attend regular child protection training and three have completed designated persons training. Staff demonstrate consistently strong teaching. However, their professional development has not evolved to further advance their understanding of how children learn. As a result, the quality of teaching has not been continuously reviewed and improved to maintain it at the highest level. Parents are encouraged to express their views about the service through a wide range of methods, including feedback forms and the nursery's social media page. This information is used by the manager and her team to help them plan for improvement. The management team has started to monitor groups of children's development. This enables them to identify where action needs to be taken quickly to narrow any gaps in learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff monitor children's ongoing progress through regular observations and assessments. Assessments are made from information gained from parents and key-person observations of children's starting points. This means staff can plan to meet children's individual learning from the start. Children enjoy a balance of independent and adult-led learning opportunities. They are provided with challenges that successfully build on their learning. For example, during tasks they are encouraged to talk about what they are doing to help them think through their ideas. Staff actively motivate children to engage in conversations and learn how to follow instructions. Children are given opportunities to increase their understanding of maths through everyday activities. Staff prompt them to count how many holes there are in a piece of equipment. Children have fun exploring and investigating sand, watching it fall through the holes and trying to catch it.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are well behaved. Staff are calm and speak to children in a respectful way, helping them learn about what is acceptable behaviour. Children show their pleasure at the praise they receive and are also able to recognise their own achievements. For instance, they smile at staff when they successfully match a set of colours. Children's good health is very well supported. Most children are able to use the toilet independently and wash their hands without reminders. Older children understand that germs can give them a stomach ache. They are encouraged to make decisions about when they would like to eat or drink. Children are able to help themselves to fresh water and snacks at any time.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their development. This ensures that they develop the skills needed in preparation for their next stage in learning or future move on to school. Children enjoy freedom of choice as they move independently around the indoor and outdoor play spaces. They show good concentration as they take part in activities that inspire and interest them. Children develop physical skills and show determination as they learn how to develop greater control over their movements while climbing large apparatus. Older children use complex sentences to link their thoughts. They ask other children to watch them because they know how to make the sand go through holes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY353280
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	849501
Type of provision	Sessional 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	24
Number of children on roll	47
Name of provider	Louise Nicole Bailes
Date of previous inspection	10 May 2011
Telephone number	07764273818

Bishops Stortford Montessori Nursery was registered in 2007. The nursery employs six members of childcare staff. Five staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery opens Monday to Friday and offers a range of sessional care from 9am until 4pm, term time only. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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