

The Children's House Montessori School

St Peter and Pauls Church Hall, Church Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8PB



Inspection date

27 April 2016

Previous inspection date

10 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Managers provide staff with good opportunities to extend their skills and knowledge. They monitor staff practice well and meet with them regularly to identify areas for improvement. Staff receive training and receive advice and guidance to help improve the quality of teaching and enable better outcomes for children.
- Staff carry out assessments and monitor children's learning and development across all areas effectively. All children, including those who have special educational needs or disability and those who are learning English as an additional language, progress well.
- Staff build effective partnerships with other professionals. They share valuable information about children to help to quickly identify and close gaps in learning.
- Staff develop good bonds with children. Children are happy when they arrive and clearly feel comfortable and secure with the staff.
- Staff teach children about appropriate behaviour and consequences. For example, staff remind them of the rules and boundaries. Children behave well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes staff do things for children rather than letting them have a go themselves; for example, putting on their coats and shoes.
- The use and accessibility of some resources do not always encourage children to make choices for themselves and to extend their learning fully, in particular with regards to technology.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the opportunities for children to become more independent in their self-care
- review the use of some resources, in particular with regards to technology, to give children more choices and develop their learning and enjoyment further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the areas of the premises that children use.
- The inspector spoke to parents and read their written comments to determine their views.
- The inspector spoke to managers and staff to check their knowledge of the requirements.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the deputy manager and observed staff's interactions with children.
- The inspector looked at written policies and other relevant documents.

Inspector

Sara Hope

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Managers work well with parents and others to gain their views of the service they provide. This helps with the self-evaluation process to identify strengths and weaknesses and areas of improvement to improve practice and benefit children. Safeguarding is effective. Staff understand how to identify and report concerns about children's welfare. This helps to keep children safe. Staff vigilantly check the areas and resources that children use to make sure they are suitable and safe. They teach children how to recognise dangers for themselves. For instance, children enjoy taking part in emergency evacuations and finding out about the people who help us. For example, they learn about the local school crossing patrol who can help them cross the road safely.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff ask children suitable questions to encourage their thinking and problem-solving skills. They use their knowledge of what children can do, and their interests, to plan for further challenging learning experiences. Staff teach children basic mathematical and literacy concepts well. For example, children enjoy matching letters, numbers, and learning to recognise their own name. Staff provide good resources to promote children's awareness of the world around them. For instance, children like to learn how to care for tadpoles, and they enjoy growing and tasting vegetables and herbs. Children develop strong friendships with other children. They learn about their sense of place in their family, for example, as they enjoy bringing in pictures from home to make a family tree. Staff provide good opportunities for children to learn about other people and cultures.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff have high expectations of what children can achieve. Children enjoy receiving praise and learn how to recognise their own achievements. They have good opportunities to exercise and develop their physical skills. For instance, they enjoy singing and creating movement in response to music indoors, and painting with water outdoors. Staff teach children about healthy lifestyles. For example, they talk about the importance of exercise, and children enjoy eating fresh fruit and know why it is good for you. Staff prepare children well for their move to school. For example, they talk to children about going to school, take them to visit, and invite teachers to come to visit them to familiarise children with the environment and new people.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are active and confident learners. They enjoy using their imagination, for example, to act out roles as they play with dinosaurs and volcanos and make letters as they pretend to work in a post office. All children make good progress in relation to their initial starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	511423
Local authority	Richmond upon Thames
Inspection number	842398
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Judith Hedge and Kim Stanton Partnership
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2011
Telephone number	0208 2966711 / 01932 232 858

The Children's House Montessori School registered in 1981. It operates from St Peter and St Paul Church in Teddington, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The school opens Monday to Friday between 9.10am and 12.20pm, for 34 weeks a year. It receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. Seven staff members work with children, six of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications between levels 3 and 4. The school follows the Montessori approach to education.

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