

The Ark Montessori Nursery

37 County Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 8HN



Inspection date

23 September 2016

Previous inspection date

17 September 2012

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

- Staff interact well with children and are skilled at starting discussions to enhance children's language and communication skills. Children listen and attend well and are confident to speak in front of others.
- Children settle in quickly and develop close relationships with their key person. Staff support children to develop high levels of self-esteem. For example, they listen carefully and respond thoughtfully to children's opinions, helping them to feel valued and secure.
- Partnerships with parents are good. Staff communicate well with them, exchanging information about their children's daily routine and learning. Regular coffee mornings that parents attend, help them to understand how staff support children's learning and how it can be extended at home.
- Children are typically taught well. They are confident and enthusiastic learners who clearly enjoy their time in the setting. Children make good progress in their development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff's observations and assessments are not consistently well used to support children's progress and learning.
- Children are not sufficiently supported to explore and express their creativity to aid their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the consistency of staff's observations and assessments to better support children's progress and learning
- expand children's ability and confidence to explore and express their creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed a range of play activities along with care routines and spoke to the staff about the children's learning and development.
- The inspector held a meeting with the manager and provider.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation.
- The inspector spoke to some parents and children and took into account their views.
- The inspector toured the nursery premises with the provider.

Inspector

Sarah Crawford

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager monitors and reviews staff practice through regular observations, supervisions and appraisals. Staff have training within the setting and through the local authority, to enhance their practice and children's outcomes. For example, staff understand how to support children's language and communication more effectively, following training. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff members are trained to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of how to keep children safe. The provider has attended training on safer recruitment procedures, which helps her to ensure that staff employed are suitable for their roles. The provider takes into account the views of staff, parents, children and others when evaluating the provision, to help secure and maintain good outcomes for all children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The quality of teaching is good. Staff support children's understanding of numbers and counting well. For example, at group time they are encouraged to predict and then count how many items are left when one is taken away. Children have good opportunities to develop their understanding of the world around them. For example, during water play children learn about the differences between ponds and rivers, and link these to their own experiences of visiting different places. Staff regularly observe children and carry out individualised planning to help support their learning. Information on children's progress is used well to plan future work and is shared with parents each term.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff are good examples in how to treat others; for example, they speak calmly and respectfully to children and to each other. They use praise to motivate children to behave in positive ways, and support their social and emotional skills well. Staff help children to develop personal care skills and to adopt healthy lifestyles. For instance, children serve themselves at snack time, where they taste different fruits and talk about their likes and dislikes. Children enjoy active play outdoors, and they benefit from the enthusiasm of staff, who initiate a range of physically stimulating games and activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need for the next stages in their learning, including being ready for school. They acquire early writing and counting skills well. For example, children enjoy mark making in the sand and they count how many cups and plates they need at snack time. Children make good progress, given what they know when they start.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY102531
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	1058783
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	15
Name of registered person	Neotrace Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527908
Date of previous inspection	17 September 2012
Telephone number	0208 240 0076

The Ark Montessori Nursery was registered in 2001. The nursery is situated in the London Borough of Croydon. The nursery is open from 9am until 3pm from Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions run from 9am to midday and from midday to 3pm, or children can stay all day. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery supports children who are learning English as an additional language. There are five staff members, three of whom have relevant childcare qualifications. The nursery follows some aspects of the Montessori philosophy.

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