

Townsend Montessori Nurseries @ Margate

Tempest House, 10 Cowper Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 1SX



Inspection date

12 October 2016

Previous inspection date

5 March 2013

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

- Babies and children benefit from playing in a bright and welcoming environment. Toys and resources are stimulating and easily accessible, which helps children to make informed choices in their play. Children make good progress across all areas of learning.
- The manager makes good use of self-evaluation and has identified areas for development. She gathers the views of staff, children and parents to provide a continuous programme of improvements to raise outcomes for children.
- The management and staff have a secure understanding of how to safeguard children, to keep them safe and maintain their welfare at all times.
- Children develop strong attachments with staff, who have a good understanding of their routines and individual needs. Staff celebrate children's achievements and make good use of praise to reassure and encourage children to have a go.
- Staff obtain detailed information from parents about their children's abilities when they first start. They use this information effectively to plan for their future learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff miss opportunities to build on children's good knowledge and thinking skills.
- Staff do not provide children with sufficient opportunities to practise their early writing skills while engaged in a variety of play activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to support staff to improve their skills and knowledge, to ensure they fully extend children's learning
- provide more opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills in all areas of the environment to further their interest in literacy.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching in all areas of the nursery.
- The inspector held discussions with the management team and spoke with children and staff at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to parents about their views on the service they receive at the nursery.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records in learning and development, staff qualifications, training and safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector carried out joint observations with the manager.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management and staff are clear about the actions to take and who to contact should they have any concerns about children's welfare. Staff teach children how to identify risks, which helps them to keep safe. For example, staff talk to children to explain why it is important to hold on to the rail when using the stairs. There is a good staff team that is deployed effectively throughout the day. The management monitors staff practice, for example, it gives guidance and offers mentoring support. The manager tracks and assesses the progress of all children. Any gaps in learning are quickly identified and appropriate action taken. For instance, staff introduced additional singing activities to support boys with speech and language development. The manager works effectively with other early years professionals to make sure children receive continuity in their care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Babies and children come into the nursery eager to play and explore. Staff communicate well with them to help increase their vocabulary and develop their speech. For example, they repeat words and phrases and use gestures. Staff use observations and assessments effectively to successfully plan for children's next steps in their learning. Children engage with a variety of activities based on their interests to support their development. Staff have established positive relationships with parents and share valuable information with them to support care and learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are offered a wide range of opportunities to interact with friends, to practise sharing. For example, they take turns using the watering can in the garden, which helps them to acquire strong social skills. Transitions between rooms and on to formal education are successful as the nursery has effective procedures in place to support children and their families. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they have daily opportunities to play outdoors and are offered healthy meals and snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

All babies and children make good progress in their learning and development. They are active learners who are inquisitive and motivated to learn. They respect and value each other and help to look after the environment. For example, they help to tidy away resources. Children build block models and practise counting, to help develop their mathematical knowledge. They are confident and display a strong sense of belonging. Children gain the skills they need for the next stage in their learning, including moving on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY450900
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1062845
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	0 - 4
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	74
Name of registered person	Townsend Montessori Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP906980
Date of previous inspection	5 March 2013
Telephone number	01843 290675

Townsend Montessori @ Margate, Kent registered in 2012 and is one of eight nurseries run by Townsend Montessori Nurseries Ltd. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 6.30pm for most of the year. It receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery employs 15 staff; of whom 12 hold childcare qualifications at level 2 or above. One member of staff holds a degree in childcare. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy of teaching.

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