

Townsend Montessori Nurseries @ Forest Hill

1-5 Rojack Road, Forest Hill, Dulwich, London, SE23 2DF



Inspection date

24 October 2016

Previous inspection date

26 July 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The monitoring of staff practice and support for their professional development is not consistent enough to help them develop and extend their practice to raise outcomes for children.
- Staff do not fully interact and communicate with children to engage, challenge and motivate them in their learning.
- Staff do not work effectively with parents to help them to be fully involved in their children's progress and the next steps in their learning.
- Self-evaluation is not yet fully effective in identifying the strengths and weaknesses to help ensure all legal requirements are met.

It has the following strengths

- Staff provide children with a suitable range of resources and activities. For example, children enjoy creative activities using paint, paper and glue.
- Children learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, children eat nutritious foods and follow good hygiene practices, such as hand washing and cleaning their teeth.
- Managers and staff monitor children's progress to help identify any gaps in learning.
- Staff build positive relationships with children. Children are happy, contented and enjoy sharing activities, such as listening to stories with staff.
- Regular risk assessment procedures help staff to identify and minimise all possible hazards to children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage the provider must:

	Due Date
■ ensure monitoring systems effectively identify weaknesses in staff practice, to provide them with regular support, training and coaching to extend their knowledge and raise the quality of teaching further	30/11/2017
■ improve the quality of staff's interactions with children to ensure that they are consistently engaged, challenged and motivated in their play and learning to help them make the best possible progress.	30/11/2017

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

- improve the existing partnership with parents to encourage them to be further involved in their children's learning and development
- make greater use of self-evaluation to identify strengths and weaknesses and ensure that all legal requirements are met.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspector observed staff and children in all of the rooms and outdoors.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector considered written and verbal feedback from parents.
- The inspector looked at a range of paperwork including evidence of staff suitability checks, policies and procedures, children's records and staff files.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The management team has a range of written policies and procedures to help keep children safe. For example, there is a secure intercom on the nursery entrance, which allows only recognised visitors to enter the nursery. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have updated their knowledge on new guidance and understand their role to protect children. They know the process to follow if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Managers have some procedures in place to monitor staff practice. However, these are not yet effective in identifying all weaknesses to target additional training and help raise the quality of teaching. Staff work well with other settings that children attend. For example, they plan together for children who require extra support.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Staff recognise some opportunities to extend children's learning. For example, they show babies how to explore coloured rice, and give explanations to older children about how cement mixers work while reading a story. However, staff do not always fully engage, challenge and motivate children sufficiently or recognise when to join in with their play and exploration to extend their learning. Nevertheless, children enjoy a range of activities to help support their physical development. For example, younger children enjoy banging and shaking a range of wooden instruments, while older children use tweezers to pick up pasta, and confidently use wheeled toys outdoors.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Staff help children to settle. For example, they display pictures of family members and find out about children's individual care routines, which they follow in the nursery. However, staff have not considered how to encourage all parents to be fully informed and involved in their children's progress and the next steps in their learning. Children are happy and build positive relationships with staff and each other. For example, babies smile when staff cuddle them. Children behave well. For example, staff praise children for sharing and tidying up and give explanations about not running indoors. Staff understand how to support children. For example, they know if children have any allergies and how to treat accidents or injuries.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children do not make the best possible progress. However, they learn to be independent, such as using jugs to pour their drinks. Children develop mathematical skills to help in their next stage of learning. For example, older children count confidently and recognise numbers up to 10. Younger children respond to simple instructions from staff, such as finding aprons and their coats.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY425564
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	1075552
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	89
Number of children on roll	115
Name of registered person	Townsend Montessori Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP906980
Date of previous inspection	26 July 2013
Telephone number	0208 291 2999

Townsend Montessori Nurseries @Forest Hill registered in 2011 and is situated in Dulwich, in the London Borough of Lewisham. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 7pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The provider receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 31 members of staff, of these 23 hold relevant childcare qualifications. One member of staff holds a level 5 qualification. The nursery operates in line with the Montessori educational philosophy.

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