

Discoveries Montessori Nursery School



Brenchley Scout Headquarters, Brenchley Road, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 7NX

Inspection date 28 April 2017
Previous inspection date 21 May 2015

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager leads by example and manages a strong, well-qualified and enthusiastic staff team. They work effectively together to help provide children with a good range of learning opportunities.
- Staff are nurturing and sensitive. They establish extremely secure attachments with children who seek and enjoy staff interactions throughout the day. This helps children to develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Children flourish in a rich environment which provides an abundance of motivating and stimulating resources. A well-considered mix of Montessori activities, natural resources and purchased equipment link together to help provide children with endless opportunities to explore. Children make good progress.
- Staff talk and listen to children consistently. For example, they use simple questions to enable children to think about what they are doing and what they want to do.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The manager does not make the best use of all opportunities to further help staff to recognise areas for their professional development to extend their skills.
- Staff do not make the best use of their partnerships with parents to help them gather a wide range of information about what children know and can do before they start.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make greater use of opportunities to further help staff extend their knowledge and skills
- build further on partnerships with parents to gain a wider range of information about what children know and can do when they start.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff and child interactions within the indoor space and outdoor environment.
- The inspector gained the views of parents.
- The inspector viewed documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures, staff records and children's developmental records.
- The inspector talked to staff about how they supported children's development.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the nursery manager to focus on staff and child interactions.

Inspector

Amanda Vidler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The manager ensures that staff are confident in recognising and recording concerns, such as a change in a child's behaviour. They follow well-developed policies to report any concerns and work closely with other professionals to help keep children safe and protected. The manager works with the staff and parents to consider and effectively evaluate aspects of their practice. She welcomes feedback from other professionals, which she uses to help her to review and implement relevant changes to ensure that all children are fully supported. The manager oversees the monitoring of children's progress both individually and within specific groups. She quickly recognises any children who need additional support to help them catch up.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff complete accurate observations of children's play, which helps them to recognise their achievements and assess children's progress. Staff identify children who need extra support in specific areas, such as communication and language. They provide many opportunities for children to catch up. For example, staff consistently repeat back what children say and extend words to help children form simple sentences. A daily exchange of information enables staff to help parents to support their children's development at home further and helps to provide a consistent approach.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are extremely respectful of those around them and play cooperatively with their peers. Staff are highly skilled at offering advice and using simple questions to help children consider how to manage their own and others' behaviour and safety. For example, staff's use of questions leads children to reflect on and consider how to change their game to develop new ways to play. Children are supported exceptionally well to learn about where food comes from and how food can help to keep them healthy. For example, children were actively involved in growing pumpkins from seeds and making healthy pumpkin soup for snack time.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well, including those who need additional support. They have plenty of opportunities to develop and practise key skills. For example, children wash up their plates after snack time and show pride in their achievements. This helps children develop their independence and self-care skills. Children are keen, enthusiastic learners who enjoy challenge and persevere with simple tasks. These skills help children to confidently move on to their next stage of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127146
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1089332
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	2 - 4
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Sandra Elizabeth Fisher
Registered person unique reference number	RP512460
Date of previous inspection	21 May 2015
Telephone number	07971289867

Discoveries Montessori Nursery School registered in 1999. It is located in Brenchley, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 9am to 3pm during school term times. The nursery employs seven staff, all of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. The manager and three other staff have relevant level 4 qualifications. The nursery is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery adopts the Montessori approach.

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