

Neasden Montessori School



St. Catherines Church Hall, Dudden Hill Lane, London, NW2 7RX

Inspection date	3 May 2017
Previous inspection date	7 May 2015

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		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- Staff are not always deployed effectively to ensure the safety and welfare of children. For example, at lunchtime when some children arrive and depart, other children are not suitably supervised.
- Staff do not always make full use of opportunities for children to develop their independence, such as during snack time.
- Occasionally, adult-led activities do not sustain children's concentration. For example, not all children are engaged during group activities and some become distracted.

It has the following strengths

- Staff, generally, provide children with an interesting range of activities to engage them in play. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- The established key-person system helps children to develop secure relationships, which helps to foster their well-being.
- Staff are effective role models and help children to learn respect for each other and their environment. Children behave well and play together cooperatively.
- Partnerships with parents are good. The regular exchange of information about children's progress helps to provide consistency for their learning and care.
- The manager regularly reviews the provision and gains parents' feedback to help make improvements.
- Staff work effectively with external professionals to improve outcomes for all 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 that staff are deployed effectively at all times to maintain the safety and welfare of children, particularly during arrival and departure times. | 14/05/2017 |

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

- support staff to extend the current opportunities for children that help them develop their independence at snack time
- improve the organisation of some adult-led group activities and fully sustain children's concentration and participation.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the setting.
- The inspector observed teaching practice and undertook a joint observation with the provider/manager.
- The inspector held discussions with staff members, parents and children.
- The inspector reviewed some of the setting's policies and documents.

Inspector

Mary Butler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. Staff know the procedures to follow if they have a concern about a child's welfare. Daily risk assessments are carried out to reduce hazards so that children can play safely. However, at times, staff are not always deployed well enough around the outdoor area to fully supervise children, which compromises their safety. Staff are supported to develop their teaching practice. For example, they attend training and benefit from opportunities to improve their qualifications. Leaders monitor children's progress and take action to maintain good outcomes, such as by providing new activities and resources to enhance children's communication and language development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have a secure understanding of how children learn and develop. They use their observation and assessment skills effectively to plan for each child's next steps in learning. Children lead their own play and staff join with them to help extend their ideas and thinking. For example, staff encourage children to explore different materials that will either sink or float through water play and to make predictions before testing their ideas. Children develop good mathematical skills, for example, as they practise counting and matching objects to numbers. They also enjoy early reading activities, such as playing with paper letters to help identify the initial sounds of their own and others' names.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Weaknesses in leadership and management mean that children's safety is not promoted as well as possible. Staff mainly provide a stimulating environment and children are enthusiastic learners. Staff make use of everyday opportunities well to help children learn how to take turns. Children are supported to lead healthy lifestyles, such as through daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They also enjoy fresh fruit choices at snack time. Staff teach children about people, cultures and traditions from around the world, which helps to develop their understanding of differences in society.

Outcomes for children are good

Outcomes for all children are good, including those who speak English as an additional language or have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children are prepared for their next stage of learning and are gaining appropriate skills for their move on to school. For example, they engage in a variety of activities to enhance early literacy and mathematical skills. Children demonstrate well developed social skills and are confident to involve adults in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	137827
Local authority	Brent
Inspection number	1089567
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	35
Number of children on roll	75
Name of registered person	Firstpride Limited t/a Neasden Montessori School
Registered person unique reference number	RP527926
Date of previous inspection	7 May 2015
Telephone number	020 8208 1631

Neasden Montessori School registered in 1985 and is situated in the London Borough of Brent. It operates weekdays between 9am and 3pm during term time. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. A team of eight staff works with the children. Of these, six staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 and 4. The nursery follows the Montessori educational philosophy.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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