

The Children's House Montessori Nursery

57 Railway Approach, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1BT



Inspection date

11 July 2017

Previous inspection date

5 February 2014

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

- The good settling-in procedures and detailed information about children enables staff to plan children's next steps immediately.
- Children begin to learn skills that will help them in their future learning. For example, they begin to manage personal skills, such as going to the toilet and putting on shoes.
- The manager evaluates her setting well. She seeks the views of parents, staff and children to help improve and develop her setting. For example, children suggested a sandpit which was subsequently purchased to improve the outdoor area.
- Staff evaluate and reflect on their practice well. They track children's progress and identify any areas for further support. They develop a plan to help all children make good progress, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The manager keeps staff up to date effectively with legislative and practice changes.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, staff are not always fully supported to help children to develop high levels of self-control and cooperate with others.
- Staff do not always enhance children's listening and attention skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide clear messages for children about what is expected of them at different times and in different situations, to provide opportunities to help children to develop high levels of self-control and cooperation
- help staff to fully support children to develop their listening and attention skills and encourage them to focus on activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises and sampled some documentation.
- The inspector observed the manager and staff interacting with children.
- The inspector interviewed the manager and carried out a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector spoke to children and viewed their activities.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

Inspector
Susan Allen

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff know what to do and whom to contact if they have a concern about children's welfare. Safeguarding is effective. The manager supports staff well. She identifies their strengths or areas for further development and implements a plan to help each member of staff progress. For example, after training, staff are better able to support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Teaching practice has improved and staff use a variety of strategies, including visual keys and sign language, to help children to learn. The manager and staff work well with parents and other agencies to continue children's learning at home. For example, staff share a farm activity naming animals and sounds. Since the last inspection, the manager and staff have extended the opportunities for children to represent their own ideas through art activities. For example, children explore blue jelly, paint pictures and use coloured paper to represent fire.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff teach children about information technology well. For example, they extend language as they name different parts of the computer, such as the spacebar and keyboard. Staff support children's early writing skills effectively. For example, children use a variety of materials, such as mark making in sand, to practise making letters. Staff teach children effectively about the world. They use water and sand to explain land masses and how the world is made up. Children experiment with plants to see the effect of water and light on how they grow. They mix water with colours, and staff extend mathematical knowledge by showing children how volume is measured. Children have access to plenty of interesting resources. For example, they play with a 'latches board' giving them practical experience of how to lock and unlock a range of latches.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff teach children about risk and personal safety well. For example, staff explain the dangers of fire when camping. Children develop close attachments to staff. The manager and staff act as positive role models for children. They use praise effectively to help build children's confidence and self-esteem. Staff support children's knowledge of healthy eating and discuss healthy food choices at snack time. They discuss where food comes from, how it grows and how fruits and vegetables are good for us. Staff teach children about diversity well and they explore different skin colours through an art activity.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They develop good mathematical skills and are prepared well for school. For example, they match numbers and quantities and learn about weights and measures. They have good opportunities to develop good physical skills, for instance, as they play outside with the equipment. Children access their own resources and are motivated to learn. They learn to be independent and carry out some tasks for themselves. For example, they find their names during group time and are able to wash their own plates and cups after snack.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY391898
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	1068942
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	39
Number of children on roll	87
Name of registered person	Greenfields Educational Trust
Registered person unique reference number	RP526728
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2014
Telephone number	07970637414

The Children's House Montessori Nursery registered in 1992. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, during term time only. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 12 members of staff; of these, one holds qualified teacher status and 10 hold recognised early years qualifications at level 2 and above. The nursery uses the Montessori method of teaching.

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