

Townsend Montessori Nurseries @ Forest Hill

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



Inspection date	4 October 2017
Previous inspection date	24 October 2016

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Staff plan effectively and provide interesting activities for children. They assess their progress regularly and use this information to provide effective challenges for children. Children make good progress in their development.
- Staff are supported well. The manager regularly meets with them as individuals to identify any training and support needs. For example, staff have attended a course on managing children's behaviour, which led to more effective ways to do this.
- The manager has a good insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the nursery and has set relevant goals for improvement. Recommendations from the previous inspection have been met.
- Staff manage children's behaviour effectively. For instance, they are calm and consistent with children and share ground rules which children understand well.
- Staff work well with parents and give them regular updates on their children's progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have not fully developed ways for children aged two to three years to learn more about the natural world.
- The deployment of staff means that, at times, babies become frustrated as they wait for alternatives to be found when they do not want to eat the meals on offer. Some babies also become restless as they wait for adults to put them to bed at nap time.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more ways for younger children to increase their understanding of the natural world
- review staff deployment to ensure that babies are more supported at lunch and sleep times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the manager.
- The inspector observed the interaction between staff and children and spoke with children when appropriate.
- The inspector tracked the progress of several children.
- The inspector looked at some documentation and held a discussion with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents and staff and considered their views.

Inspector

Jennifer Beckles

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Staff work effectively to keep children safe. The premises are secure and all staff have received first-aid training. They carry out robust risk assessments to help to minimise the risk of accidents. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have good knowledge of the procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child's welfare. Staff work well to keep children safe. For instance, all staff are trained in first aid and they have good policies and procedures in place, such as effective accident and medication recording. The manager monitors the nursery's practice well. She keeps a close check on children's progress, for instance, by reviewing planning and assessments regularly, to identify children requiring additional support. The manager carries out good background checks on staff during the recruitment process to help to keep children safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff support children's creative skills well. For instance, children use different types of tools and materials to make helicopters in their own way. Staff teach children good early literacy skills. For example, children know different letter names and sounds and can recognise their names. Staff teach children effective early mathematical skills. Children count securely and can recognise numbers. Staff give children time to think and respond to questions and support their language development effectively. They support the learning needs of babies well, for instance, by singing songs to help babies learn new words and by providing different types of materials to explore, supporting their creative development. Children have good physical challenges in the well-arranged outdoor area where they climb, jump and learn to throw and catch objects with increasing skill.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Overall, children settle well and are confident and motivated to learn. Staff find out about children's likes and dislikes and provide activities that children enjoy. They teach children how to behave in safe ways. For example, staff show children how to use the stairs with care and caution and discuss road safety. Children gain good independence skills. For example, older children put on different items of clothing, help to lay the table and serve themselves at mealtimes. Staff provide healthy routines for children, such as nutritious meals and daily opportunities for physical challenges.

Outcomes for children are good

Children learn to respect themselves and each other. They play cooperatively together and explore their imagination in role play. Children understand how to use technology and operate simple programs independently. They learn useful skills to support their future learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY425564
Local authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	1077276
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 - 5
Total number of places	89
Number of children on roll	148
Name of registered person	Townsend Montessori Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP906980
Date of previous inspection	24 October 2016
Telephone number	0208 291 2999

Townsend Montessori Nurseries @ Forest Hill registered in 2011. It is located in Forest Hill, in the London Borough of Lewisham. The nursery is open each weekday from 7.30am to 7pm for 51 weeks of the year and is closed on bank holidays. The provider receives funding to provide early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 24 members of staff, including the manager. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications, including one staff member who holds qualified teacher status. The nursery operates in line with the Montessori educational philosophy, combined with a learning-through-play approach.

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