

Cherrytrees Montessori

Cossington Village Hall, Trivetts Way, Cossington, BRIDGWATER, Somerset, TA7 8JN



Inspection date

3 October 2017

Previous inspection date

9 December 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

- Skilled and enthusiastic staff know the children well. They successfully plan a wide range of stimulating activities, which take into account the children's interests and what they need to learn next. As a result, children are motivated in their learning.
- Staff are keen to develop their knowledge. They benefit from a wide range of training opportunities and are well supported through regular supervision meetings with the manager.
- The environment is welcoming and there is a good range of equipment which is easily accessible to children. This enables children to make choices in their learning.
- Children thoroughly enjoy music and movement sessions. Staff play the piano and demonstrate to the children how they can move their bodies in time with the beat. As a result, children show good control as they move in different ways in time with the music.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff do not make the most of the outside area to take into account the needs of children who learn better outside. They limit the time the children can use the space.
- Children's independence is not fully supported. For example, staff prepare and put the food on children's plates during snack time even though the children are capable of doing it themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the use of the garden area to take into account the needs of children who learn better in the outdoor environment
- use every opportunity to promote children's independence.

Inspection activities

- There were two inspectors completing the inspection.
- A inspector completed a joint observation with the manager and discussed the findings.
- The inspectors held meetings with the manager to discuss self-evaluation and to review documentation such as staff records and children's learning records.
- The inspectors spoke to parents to gain their views of the setting.
- The inspectors spoke to staff and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Lorraine Sparey/Johanna Hughes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff attend a variety of training opportunities linked to child protection. As a result staff are alert to potential concerns and have a clear understanding of what they need to do to safeguard children. There are good systems in place to encourage parents, staff and children to contribute their ideas about possible improvements to the setting. For example, staff and parents reviewed the layout of the equipment to make sure it reflected children's interests. All children's achievements are monitored to make sure that they are making the best progress possible. Regular assessments of children's development, discussions with parents and observations of the children help the manager identify any gaps in children's learning. There are good partnerships with parents, who value advice and support from the staff about their children's development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Positive staff interaction with children keeps them actively engaged in their learning. For example, staff get down on the floor with the children and take a genuine interest in what they are saying and doing. This helps extend their learning. Children are happy and engage in interesting activities which are provided by the staff team. For example, children thoroughly enjoy investigating leaves. They learn new words and talk about the different parts of the leaves, such as the veins. They confidently mix paints, and talk about how the paint changes colour. They relate this to the changing seasons. Staff complete accurate assessments of children's development and understand what the children know and what they need to learn next. This informs staff planning to make sure children are progressing in all areas of their learning. Parents are encouraged to continue their children's learning at home. For example, children enthusiastically bring in conkers and leaves they have collected at home for the nature table.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children behave well and show kindness to others. For example, they help each other to take off their boots after playing outside. They are keen to share ideas when playing together. For example, older children suggest roles to younger children when playing pretend shops. Children learn about safety through their play. They talk about using oven gloves to take hot food out of the oven saying that they need to be careful. Staff skilfully extend children's ideas by discussing how to keep safe in the kitchen. Children learn to value and respect each other through well-planned activities. For example, they enjoy learning about China, celebrating the New Year, making dragons and trying Chinese food.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of their learning. They are confident speakers and engage in conversations with each other and adults. For example, children talk about how they have been measuring dinosaurs that they are growing in water. Other children use their imagination well as they build vehicles with magnetic blocks to create their own models. Staff value children's achievements and builds their self-esteem. For example, they take photos of the models the children build.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY438483
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1114374
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	Margaret Ann Dobbs
Registered person unique reference number	RP511951
Date of previous inspection	9 December 2014
Telephone number	01278723816

Cherrytrees Montessori School registered in 2011. The setting is privately owned and operates from Cossington, near Bridgwater, Somerset. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. It follows the Montessori educational philosophy. The setting is open Monday to Wednesday from 9.15am to 3pm term time only. The manager has a Montessori Teaching Certificate and holds Early Years Professional Status. She employs five members of staff and, of these, three hold qualifications at level 3.

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