

Cranbrook Castle Montessori

Cranbrook Castle Tennis Club, St Georges Road, Ilford, IG1 3PG



Inspection date 22 January 2018
Previous inspection date 21 July 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children have developed positive, caring relationships with staff and their peers. Staff support children in managing their own behaviour well and, as a result, children are highly considerate of one another's feelings.
- Management strives to offer best practice. A detailed self-evaluation and action plan helps to ensure staff knowledge and skills are up to date and have a positive impact on practice.
- Children are able to access resources easily. This allows them to make choices and direct their own learning. Staff make accurate observations of children at play and use these well in planning for children's next steps in learning.
- Strong partnership working between staff and parents supports children's development. Parents speak highly of all staff at the setting and the good progress that their children have made from their starting points.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Activities and equipment to support physical development do not always fully challenge older children's physical skills successfully.
- Staff sometimes miss opportunities to extend children's awareness of signs, symbols and words.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop more opportunities to support older children to challenge their physical skills further
- extend opportunities to develop children's awareness of signs, symbols and words.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to children, parents, management and staff.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation of a focused activity.
- The inspector observed activities and play, in the main room and in the garden.
- The inspector sampled documents, including policies, accidents and incidents, and children's records.

Inspector

Leanne Stranger

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Staff are aware of the policies and procedures in place and know how to escalate concerns, to keep children safe. Management bases itself within the main room and completes planned and ad-hoc staff observations. This helps to support the delivery of effective practice. Management carries out regular supervision meetings with staff to review and improve practice and to promote extended learning. For example, it encourages staff to attend training facilitated by the borough and then share this knowledge with the team. Parents speak highly of support from managers and staff. To continue to improve knowledge and have a positive impact on the provision, the manager is looking to extend her own professional development with further training. The setting has strong links with other professionals, for example, working with speech and language therapists, and signposting parents to the local Children's Centre.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff effectively facilitate learning through the Montessori approach of child-directed play, supported by a qualified Montessori teacher. Children are developing and achieving in the prime areas, within their typical age brackets. Children use posting and threading activities successfully, to develop their fine-motor skills. Staff support younger children well to extend their physical development. For example, assisting them to climb a small slide and to use pedals on ride-along toys. Staff model appropriate language and encourage children to extend their vocabulary, such as commenting on play as the children explored with magnifying glasses and torches.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children cheerfully arrive at the setting and confidently interact with their peers, staff and other parents. Staff skilfully support children to care for and respect one another. Children display extremely positive behaviour and are able to diffuse tensions while sharing tricycles, without adult intervention. Children show high levels of independence and resilience when managing challenging situations. For example, laughing, picking up furniture and reassuring staff that they can manage, following a minor incident. Staff work closely with parents and children to develop highly positive relationships and, as a result, children have formed exceptionally secure attachments with staff. Children develop an extremely strong sense of self and are encouraged to celebrate individual differences, for example, through providing multi-ethnicity dolls in the role-play area and singing songs and counting in Spanish.

Outcomes for children are good

Children participate in activities enthusiastically and are confident in initiating their own play. Children learn skills which prepare them well for future learning. Children partake in self-registration by placing their own photograph in a pot on arrival and are encouraged to be responsible for their belongings, which assists readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY471676
Local authority	Redbridge
Inspection number	1071680
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	29
Name of registered person	Cranbrook Castle Montessori Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP533240
Date of previous inspection	21 July 2014
Telephone number	02085548979

Cranbrook Castle Montessori registered in 2013. It is located in Cranbrook Castle Tennis Club in Ilford, in the London Borough of Redbridge and is open each weekday from 9.30am to 3.30pm during term time. The setting is in receipt of funding to provide free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are six permanent members of staff. One holds a level 6 qualification, one level 5, three level 3 and one level 2.

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