

Chapel Grange Montessori Nursery

Chapelstead, Dean Row Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 2BU



Inspection date	13 February 2018
Previous inspection date	16 March 2017

	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

- The new manager has introduced a number of enhancements to the nursery. She has reviewed how the day is organised, revised policies and introduced changes to the way staff's professional development is managed, to raise standards.
- Staff assess children's understanding and progress. They provide interesting activities which guide children to develop a good understanding of the concepts being taught. Children are encouraged to use all their senses and undertake their own experiments.
- Children benefit from the well-equipped indoor and outdoor learning environment. They can easily access toys and equipment which are carefully designed to support their independent learning.
- Baby room staff form warm bonds with children who feel secure and happy enough to try new things and develop new skills. They encourage children's early language development well, through modelling conversations and singing songs and rhymes.
- Children of all ages are very confident. The staff encourage children to be extremely independent from a very young age. Children take pride in caring for their environment.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Current arrangements for staff development to raise the already good standard of teaching to an even higher level are still being embedded.
- Although staff use a range of methods to exchange information with parents, this is not entirely successful in ensuring all parents feel fully informed about their child's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consolidate the recent enhancements to the professional development programme to help in progressing all staff's teaching skills towards excellence
- develop the links with parents further so that communication is highly successful.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and read written testimonials from parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Sarah Rhodes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff understand their individual responsibility to keep children safe and have a good understanding of what would constitute a safeguarding concern. Staff are well qualified and strongly encouraged to undertake further training and qualifications, such as courses on using music as a starting point for learning, or baby signing to aid communication with younger children. This targeted training has a positive impact on children's learning and welfare. The manager observes staff's teaching and checks their assessments of children's progress to ensure all areas of learning are properly planned for. Staff work with other providers to ensure they gather all required information so that they can complement what others provide.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff are well motivated and use a range of teaching methods to enthuse the children. The philosophy that the nursery follows and the clear routines encourage children to concentrate during group-work time. Staff carefully plan activities which provide fun ways to encourage children to identify the sounds that letters represent or develop the physical skills needed for writing. Staff introduce children to a wide range of vocabulary. The themes they use widen children's horizons and introduce them to concepts, such as the solar system or more complex mathematical concepts. Staff gather information from parents about what children can do at home. Children's interests are used to tie all areas of learning together and to provide a wide range of experiences. Staff consider individual children's learning needs so that activities can be tailored to children's abilities. For example, younger children who prefer to learn outdoors have additional access to the garden.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children learn to be physically able. Toddlers and pre-school children confidently prepare their own snack or serve others at lunchtime and clear up after they have finished. They develop an understanding of a healthy diet through discussion and trying interesting new foods. Meals are freshly prepared and carefully planned to provide a balanced diet. Staff help children to develop empathy for others and play cooperatively. Children are well occupied and they respond to the positive atmosphere where they know they are valued.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress ready for school. Most are working comfortably within the range of development typical for their age. Children have strong imaginations and are given many opportunities to be curious and creative. Children develop strength and coordination in their fingers in preparation for writing. They enjoy using tweezers to move items, or persevere in doing up buttons and other fastenings. They play games that encourage them to identify the sounds that words start with and become comfortable in identifying written letters and how these are formed. Children access equipment which helps them to sequence things in order of size and number. They experience fractions using equipment which introduces them to a whole, half and quarter.

Setting details

Unique reference number	305009
Local authority	Cheshire East
Inspection number	1096801
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	38
Name of registered person	Chapel Grange Montessori Nursery Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP524130
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2017
Telephone number	01625 532083

Chapel Grange Montessori Nursery registered in 1996. It is situated in a converted chapel premises in the Wilmslow area of Cheshire. The nursery follows the Montessori educational philosophy. The nursery opens Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs seven members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6, two at level 5, one at level 4 and two at level 3. The nursery also employs a cook and an administrative assistant.

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