

Step By Step Montessori - Edgware



John Keble Church Hall, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 9NS

Inspection date	6 March 2018
Previous inspection date	9 March 2015

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

- Managers and staff maintain good standards of care and learning. They have improved upon the recommendations raised at the previous inspection. For example, children use their imagination while building with bricks and when painting pictures. They select books to read which help them to learn about the world in which they live.
- Parents speak highly of this friendly nursery. They say that they feel fully included in their children's learning. Parents comment on how well staff plan children's move from one playroom to another and on to school.
- Staff are very focused on helping children to be independent in their learning. Children confidently choose from the wide range of stimulating play resources made available. Children safely move resources from one play area to another.
- Staff give high priority to keeping children safe and healthy. Staff are good role models and provide children with clear explanations. For example, staff explain that children must wash their hands to remove germs. Children are gently reminded to cut grapes at snack time to prevent them from choking.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff are not strongly focused on helping all children to respect and celebrate the different languages some children speak at home.
- Staff do not fully challenge all children to make the highest levels of achievement in their learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- help children to respect and celebrate all the different languages they speak at home
- use opportunities to challenge all children to make the highest levels of achievement in their learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children during activities, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Dianne Adams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The manager and staff are ambitious and reflective practitioners. They regularly evaluate the quality of teaching and the progress different groups of children make. Swift action is taken to help all children receive the support they need, including children who have special educational needs and/or a disability. Staff work closely with other professionals and parents and agree specific activities that help children to make good progress. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and staff attend ongoing child protection training to develop their knowledge and skills. They have a good understanding of the action to take if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Recruitment is robust. The manager carries out regular checks to make sure staff are suitable to work with children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, staff are well qualified. They all have a good knowledge of each child's development. Staff observe and assess the good progress children make, in partnership with parents. They use the information to plan activities that reflect children's interests. For example, children concentrate well as they explore with cars and trains. They learn to negotiate with other children and agree how to build a wall using bricks. Staff give children clear explanations and instructions to extend their learning. They provide children with plenty of time to think and to develop their own ideas. Children enjoy success and show pride and satisfaction in their accomplishments.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff spend time getting to know children and their families. As a result, children settle well into the nursery routine. They develop close attachments to staff and each other. Their behaviour is good. Children are curious and confident to speak to visitors. This demonstrates that they feel safe and secure. Children really enjoy taking on the responsibility of small tasks. For example, they help themselves to fruit to eat and pour their own drinks. Staff support children to take risks appropriate for their age. For example, children take great care as they cut bananas and grapes with a knife. Children are learning to respect others living in their community. For example, they visit and develop friendly relationships with people living in a local home for the elderly.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic learners. They enjoy exploring and making decisions about their play in this calm and stimulating nursery. Children develop their early literacy skills. They sound out letters of simple words and practise writing letters of the alphabet. Children concentrate well as they explore books. They eagerly anticipate the next event in a story and suggest the sounds different animals make. Children show interest in numbers. They explore numbers up to 20 as they count items in their play. All children make good progress in their learning in relation to their starting points. They are well prepared for the next stage of their learning and their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY282316
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	1091929
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	50
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Step By Step Montessori Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535240
Date of previous inspection	9 March 2015
Telephone number	07717514213

Step By Step Montessori registered in 2004. The nursery is open on Monday to Friday from 9am to midday, during school term times. The nursery employs eight members of childcare staff, including the manager. Of these, one member of staff holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 5, one at level 4, two at level 3 and another at level 2. The nursery receives funding for two-, three- and four-year-olds. The nursery follows the Montessori educational philosophy.

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