

# Little Orchard Montessori Nursery Sparkwell

The Old School, Sparkwell, Plymouth PL7 5DB



<b>Inspection date</b>	20 March 2019
Previous inspection date	17 February 2016

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>2</b>
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

- Leaders and managers value the staff team, who work well together. Staff benefit from regular supervision meetings and state that they feel well supported to develop their practice. For example, they benefit from regular training opportunities, which enhance their skills and knowledge to help children make good progress.
- Staff establish good partnerships with parents. There is an effective two-way flow of information. Staff share with parents details of how they may support children's ongoing learning at home. For example, they share videos which demonstrate signs supporting speech.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to be physically active both indoors and out. For example, children enjoy climbing steps and bridges as they play inside. They benefit from weekly forest school sessions and walks in the local community.
- Staff encourage children to do things for themselves. Children take turns to wash their dishes at mealtimes, pour their drinks and put on their coats to play outside.
- Staff ensure children's emotional well-being is supported through times of change. For example, they invite Reception teachers to the nursery to meet children prior to their move on to school.
- Staff deployment does not always consistently support young children's engagement with routine activities.
- On occasion, the learning environment is particularly noisy and distracts some children's learning.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review arrangements for staff deployment so that young children are more consistently supported throughout the day
- improve the organisation of activities when the room becomes noisy, to help children concentrate and engage as well as possible.

### 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 provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views, along with written feedback.

**Inspector**  
Carly Ellicott

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Leaders and managers are well qualified and dedicated to the ongoing improvements of the nursery. They use effective strategies to monitor staff practice and seek training opportunities to motivate and inspire professional development. For example, leaders attend national conferences to update their knowledge. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager ensures staff receive regular training in child protection and wider safeguarding issues. Staff know what to do should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Staff vigilantly risk assess the environment and take appropriate steps to manage risks without limiting children's experiences. Staff actively seek advice and guidance from other professionals and share good practice with parents.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff deliver a range of stimulating activities for children. For instance, children measure snakeskin and extend number lines using blocks, to develop understanding of mathematical concepts in exciting ways. Staff talk to children as they play. They introduce new words to help build children's vocabularies and use strategies to aid communication. For example, young children confidently use signs supporting speech to make themselves understood. Children deeply engage in role play using their imaginations to care for dolls and dig in the sand tray. Staff provide resources which help children recognise numerals and give meaning to numbers when exploring quantity in routine activities. Children imaginatively create interesting models from loose materials. Staff engage well with children. They give children time to think and respond to questions, provoking interesting discussions. For example, they explore birds' nests and discuss habitats in nature. Staff regularly review children's progress and analyse information to target appropriate support and intervention. This helps to close gaps in children's learning and development.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Older children are familiar with the routines and expectations of the nursery. Children benefit from nurturing relationships with staff and receive high levels of care. For example, children relax and settle to sleep as staff sing soothing songs. Children learn how to keep themselves safe, finding out how to safely use climbing frames inside and using problem-solving skills to clean up spillages. Children are curious about the world. For instance, they thoughtfully observe tadpoles and are keen to share their own experiences with others. Children benefit from nutritious and balanced home-cooked meals. Staff promote health and nutrition with parents and adopt engaging ways to encourage healthy eating at home. For example, a breakfast basket of fruit is freely available for parents and children to help themselves.

### Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They are active learners who confidently explore the environment. Younger children receive praise and encouragement as they explore interactive toys. Older children share and take turns as they use tools during sensory activities. All children thoroughly enjoy listening to stories and singing familiar songs. Children develop the key skills that will support school readiness.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	EY476308
<b>Local authority</b>	Devon
<b>Inspection number</b>	10075852
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childcare on non-domestic premises
<b>Registers</b>	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
<b>Day care type</b>	Full day care
<b>Age range of children</b>	1 - 4
<b>Total number of places</b>	26
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	37
<b>Name of registered person</b>	Little Orchard Montessori Nurseries Ltd
<b>Registered person unique reference number</b>	RP902225
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	17 February 2016
<b>Telephone number</b>	01752837883

Little Orchard Montessori Nursery re-registered in 2014. The nursery is located in the village of Sparkwell on the outskirts of Plymouth, Devon. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year, closing for a week at Christmas and all bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. There are eight members of staff in total, all of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. The nursery follows the Montessori method of education.

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