

Summertown Montessori Nursery

Summertown Church Hall, Portland Road, OXFORD OX2 7EZ



Inspection date	26 November 2018
Previous inspection date	19 November 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- Leaders, managers and staff do not ensure that all areas of the premises, particularly the children's cloakroom, are sufficiently clean. This increases the risk of infection.
- The quality of teaching is inconsistent. While staff support and engage children well at times, at other times they do not adapt activities appropriately to their learning needs and do not motivate them well.
- Staff occasionally do not follow expectations for behaviour management to support children's personal and social skills effectively.
- Leaders and managers do not monitor and evaluate practice well enough to identify all areas of weakness and meet all legal requirements.

It has the following strengths

- Children generally settle well and enjoy exploring. They develop positive relationships and behave well, overall.
- Staff assess children routinely to identify gaps in learning and generally help them to make steady progress.
- Leaders, managers and staff understand safeguarding procedures to help keep children safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that the premises are suitably clean and free of mould to reduce the risk of infection, with particular reference to the children's cloakroom area	26/12/2018
improve monitoring, supervision and support for the staff to ensure they understand how children learn best and that they deliver activities consistently well to meet all children's learning needs successfully.	26/02/2019

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

- strengthen the staff team's understanding of behaviour management expectations and how the quality of activities affects children's behaviour
- develop self-evaluation processes to identify weaknesses and ensure that all legal requirements are met.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector invited the manager to complete a joint observation.
- The inspector talked with the manager, staff, key persons, parents and children at appropriate points during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of staff suitability and training, and the nursery's self-evaluation form.
- The inspection was carried out following the risk assessment process.

Inspector

Gill Little

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

Leaders and managers overlook some aspects of weakness and therefore do not take effective steps to make improvements in some areas, including hygiene standards. While they provide some support and training to the well-qualified staff team, they do not identify carefully where some staff need more guidance to achieve good-quality practice. Safeguarding is effective. Leaders, managers and staff know what to do if they have concerns about children and they keep their knowledge and understanding up to date. They follow suitable procedures, such as using mobile phones safely, to help keep children safe. Leaders and managers follow appropriate procedures to ensure that staff are suitable to work with children and have relevant qualifications.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The manager, who is also the registered provider, has introduced a new assessment system which enables staff to monitor children's progress more effectively and share relevant information with parents and other professionals. This demonstrates that most children achieve well in most areas. However, in practice, the manager and staff overlook opportunities to provide better-quality learning experiences for all children and they do not plan well for these at times. For example, staff sometimes instruct children to join in with activities that do not interest them and deliver these at a level beyond their understanding. At other times children are excited by their play and learning, such as helping to decorate a Christmas tree and wrap presents. Staff teach children some helpful skills in preparation for their next stages and for school, such as developing independence. Parents comment that they feel well supported by staff and that their children are progressing well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The manager and staff generally enable children to enjoy their time in the nursery, although some activities do not motivate or interest some children. Key persons help children form secure attachments but sometimes do not respond effectively to their individual needs, such as building self-confidence more successfully. Staff generally support children's behaviour in a positive way, but at times they do not follow agreed strategies or consider why children do not respond to them well. Staff help children learn to respect and celebrate each other's differences, and they help them to be kind to one another. Staff provide regular opportunities for children to be active and enjoy physical exercise, and they ensure that children can eat healthily.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Some children are high achievers and they enjoy challenges, such as writing numbers in sequence. Children who speak English as an additional language acquire communication skills rapidly and become confident to hold conversations. However, younger children, including those in receipt of two-year funding, at times do not receive good-quality support to engage well in activities and develop their skills through play. Occasionally, some children, including those from vulnerable groups, do not receive effective support from their key person to encourage higher levels of confidence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408460
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10085422
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	27
Name of registered person	Montessori North Oxford Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902556
Date of previous inspection	19 November 2015
Telephone number	01865311364

Summertown Montessori Nursery registered in 2010. It is run by Montessori North Oxford Limited. The nursery operates from a church hall in the Summertown area of Oxford. It is open on weekdays from 8am until 5.30pm for 45 weeks in the year. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two and three years. It employs four staff, three of whom hold relevant qualifications at level 6, including qualified teacher status and early years professional status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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