

Heather Grove Montessori Nursery

1 Warrington Road, Cuddington, NORTHWICH, Cheshire CW8 2LH



Inspection date	6 August 2019
Previous inspection date	11 November 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of 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

- The leadership team is ambitious and has high expectations for the staff. The well-qualified and dedicated staff team is committed to delivering high-quality nursery experiences for all children.
- Partnerships with parents are extremely well established. Staff work closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. They involve parents in all aspects of their children's learning. Parents are complimentary and state, 'I am absolutely delighted with the service and care provided by the nursery'.
- The nursery environment is exceptionally well planned and stimulating. Children of all ages access a range of captivating opportunities which ignite their curiosity. They are motivated to learn and engage in all activities. For example, children make mushroom salad in the mud kitchen. They chop up the vegetables with real tools and use the teapots to transfer the water, demonstrating good control and dexterity.
- Children have an excellent understanding of how to identify risks and keep themselves safe. For example, staff involve them in completing daily risk assessments, using red triangles to identify any hazards in the environment. They discuss these hazards and how to reduce any risks posed.
- Children are extremely happy and settled. They make independent choices in their play and confidently explore their environment. Children behave exceptionally well and they are extremely kind and considerate to others.
- The support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities is excellent. Staff attend specific training related to children's individual needs. For example, they have attended specialist sign language training and introduced the use of signs to support children's developing language and communication skills.
- Although some staff's teaching is outstanding, this is not consistent throughout the nursery and leads to some variations in the standard of teaching and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the monitoring of staff to support greater consistency in teaching practice throughout the nursery, to raise the quality to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector took a tour of the nursery with the manager, including the outdoor environment.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection. She observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a meeting with the leadership team. She discussed self-evaluation processes and looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector took part in joint observations with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to some parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector
Rachel Strutt

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The manager and the staff team have good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures, including wider child protection concerns. Staff understand local referral procedures well and know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Partnerships with external agencies are well established to further support children's well-being. Staff are encouraged to attend training courses to further develop their practice and update their knowledge. Members of the management team closely monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery environment. They actively seek the views of others, including staff, parents and children, which supports them to meet the needs of all children successfully. Leaders and managers are good role models for staff and confidently demonstrate their good practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All staff have a good understanding of how children learn. They plan well for children's interests and stage of development. This allows staff to build on what children already know and can do successfully. Children are given time to solve problems for themselves and staff promote independent thinking. For example, children work together using the large-scale equipment to create a ball shoot. They develop their critical thinking skills as they decide how to do this and access the required resources to support them to achieve their goal. They beam with pride at their accomplishment and their happiness is evident as other children come to join in the fun. Children have extensive opportunities to build on their literacy skills. Younger children giggle with delight while they join in with familiar action rhymes. Older children select books for themselves and enjoy the stories on offer.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff consistently praise children's achievements and perseverance. Children are rapidly developing their independence skills from a very young age and are learning to be responsible. Staff foster confidence and encourage a can-do attitude about what children can achieve. For example, even the youngest children serve meals to their friends and pour their own drinks. Staff nurture children's self-esteem and emotional well-being extremely well. Relationships between the children and their key person are exceptionally strong. Staff know all of the children within the nursery. This gives children a strong sense of belonging. Children develop excellent physical skills. The extensive range of resources on offer promote both their large- and small-muscle development.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their developmental starting points. Staff successfully support children's speech and language development. They engage children in conversation and listen intently, allowing time for children to respond and offer their own ideas. Babies babble and make sounds. Toddlers express their wants and needs, and pre-school children confidently share their thoughts and ideas. All children are gaining the skills required for their next stage of learning and the eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY461301
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	10109844
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	41
Number of children on roll	77
Name of registered person	Holly Grange Montessori Nursery (Cuddington) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP532499
Date of previous inspection	11 November 2013
Telephone number	01606889888

Holly Grange Montessori Nursery registered in 2013. The nursery employs 17 members of childcare staff. Of these, 16 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 and above. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. It operates in line with the Montessori educational philosophy. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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