

Inspection of Wood Street Montessori

Ewen Church Hall, Wood Street, BARNET, Hertfordshire EN5 4BW

Inspection date:

11 March 2020

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are very happy and show that they are extremely motivated, independent and curious learners. They settle quickly upon arrival to the nursery and develop strong friendships with each other. They play harmoniously together. Children form exceptionally positive bonds with the caring staff and engage busily in a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable experiences. For instance, children skilfully used a wide selection of tools and equipment, such as scissors and glue spreaders, to make colourful costumes for their paper dolls. Staff praised children for their excellent efforts as they discussed their creations. Children's behaviour across the nursery is exemplary. They share, take turns and are extremely respectful of others. All staff give the highest priority to help children increase their vocabulary. They listen attentively to children and give them time to think and express themselves. For example, children actively contributed and used their imagination and own ideas during circle and story time. Children who speak English as an additional language and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive targeted support from staff and make rapid progress. Staff are highly effective in supporting children's love of music, singing and exploring the wider world. For example, children welcome weekly visits from outside professionals to give them French lessons and to teach music. They respond with enjoyment and demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The highly qualified and experienced manager and staff team successfully fulfil the highest of expectations for all children. They use extremely effective strategies to combine the Montessori philosophy of teaching with learning through play. Key persons use relevant information from parents to assess what their children know, can do and need to learn next. They plan meticulously for each child and track their individual progress to help close gaps in their learning. All children make rapid and sustained progress in relation to their individual starting points.
- Staff provide an extremely broad range of activities and resources so that children can explore and investigate their world. For example, children have access to discovery tables where they learn to use a magnifying glass to look at real-life objects and creatures such as plants and bugs. They learn to recycle the different materials and demonstrate a strong understanding of how to look after their planet.
- Children show very high levels of motivation and concentration. They develop exceptional skills needed for their future learning and in readiness for school. For instance, children use tape measures to identify the different sizes of rods and bricks. Staff extend children's problem-solving skills further by encouraging them to count and calculate. Children have a strong knowledge of letters and sounds,

and many can write their own name.

- Staff promote children's independence highly effectively and this is deeply embedded by all staff in the nursery. For example, a daily helper is chosen to help the staff set out the cutlery and plates and help their younger friends tidy up after play. Children learn very good self-care skills around personal hygiene, and have an exceptionally good understanding of healthy lifestyles, such as frequent exercise and outdoor play.
- Children are exceptionally well behaved. Staff support them to develop feelings of empathy and an understanding of their emotional intelligence through acts of kindness. They give children lots of praise and encouragement during activities, which supports their confidence and self-esteem.
- The manager is highly reflective and inspirational. For example, since the previous inspection, she has improved the outdoor area further to provide an even greater range of activities to help maintain the highest standards for all children. The manager implements highly effective plans to further enhance staff's professional development and they have regular meetings and training to maximise children's learning potential.
- Parent partnerships are very strong. Staff work closely with parents and other professionals to support children who need extra help, are in receipt of funded early education or who speak English as an additional language. For example, staff provide good home-learning opportunities for children and parents. This positive support means any possible gaps in children's development are closing quickly. Parents are highly complimentary, and comment that they feel extremely included in their children's development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The manager and staff are extremely vigilant and implement highly effective procedures to help keep children safe and secure. All staff complete training to help them understand the potential risks posed to children, including from exposure to extreme views. They know what action to take if concerned about a child. The manager undertakes robust background checks on all staff as part of the recruitment process to ensure staff are suitable for their roles and that they understand their responsibilities. Staff carry out rigorous risk assessments in the setting and teach children exceptionally well how to keep themselves safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	147650
Local authority	Barnet
Inspection number	10128393
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 at time of inspection	2 to 5
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Errichiello, Audrey Ann
Registered person unique reference number	RP905408
Telephone number	020 8449 3968 or 07931 532095
Date of previous inspection	29 June 2015

Information about this early years setting

Wood Street Montessori registered in 1999 and is located in the London Borough of Barnet. The nursery is open from 9.30am to 12.30pm every weekday, and additionally on Monday and Wednesday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, during term time only. There are eight members of staff, including the manager. The majority of staff are trained in the Montessori approach and hold relevant early years qualifications. Four staff members hold a level 4 qualification in early years, and three hold level 2 or above. The nursery offers funded education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Yasmine Hurley

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk with the manager, observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector talked to the manager, staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She also spoke to parents to gain their feedback.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation, including children's records and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector completed an evaluation of an activity with the manager.

We carried out this inspection 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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2020