

Inspection of Little Orchard Montessori Chaddlewood

17 Branson Court, Plymouth, Devon PL7 2WU

Inspection date: 15 December 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy their time at the nursery and make good progress in their development. All children develop strong independence skills and staff encourage them to explore and investigate the broad curriculum. Staff have high expectations of children. Those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities benefit from specific interactions from staff. These help to develop their listening and concentration skills.

Staff put in place effective strategies that help to support children's emotional development. 'Family books' enable children to see photographs of their loved ones throughout the day, providing opportunities for them to talk about home relationships. Additionally, plenty of sensory activities alongside nurturing staff help children to soothe themselves and feel calm, should they become upset.

Children behave well and staff help them to use kind words and 'kind hands'. They role model to children how to take turns and share resources to support their social skills. Children show that they feel safe, seeking out their key person when tired or in need of comfort.

Children have opportunities to explore an 'artist of the month'. They learn about where the artist originates and the type of artwork they produce. Children recreate artist pictures using coloured rice, making their own interpretation of 'a starry night', which supports their creative development well.

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

- Parents comment positively on the care and education the nursery provides for their children. They talk about how staff have been instrumental in helping to settle their children and how independence and language acquisition have grown since attending. Parents state how they receive regular communication from the nursery and ideas on how to support children's learning at home.
- Leaders and staff are passionate in evaluating the nursery to benefit children. They have engaged in 'sing and sign' training and introduced specific songs and stories to support all children's communication skills. They comment on how children's engagement with books has improved, as has their increased vocabulary.
- Staff provide all children with good sensory experiences. For younger children, staff encourage them to feel sensorial sandpaper boards and help children to distinguish which two boards feel the same, using only their sense of touch. For older children, staff use 'sandpaper letters' alongside playing games such as 'I-spy'. Children engage in three senses, visual, auditory and tactile, to help blend sounds together.

- Children benefit from healthy nutritious meals cooked by the on-site chef, who caters for children's individual dietary needs. Staff play calm music as children serve themselves lunch on china plates and drink from china cups. Children then wash their faces with individual flannels after lunch. They develop good autonomy skills.
- Overall, children feel secure. However, occasionally, some children find it difficult to understand routines and changes throughout the day and become unsettled. Nonetheless, staff are devising strategies to support children with this.
- Leaders work closely with nearby schools, helping to prepare children when they move on from nursery. Leaders provide teaching staff with a questionnaire on how children have settled at school and if there are any ways to improve the transition. Additionally, staff share information about children's development with schools to provide a starting point in their new educational environment.
- Children benefit from mixing with all ages of children within the nursery. This helps them feel settled when they move up to the next room as they are familiar with their surroundings and staff. The nursery tries to ensure that children have their peers and a consistent adult to move up to the next room with them to help them settle more quickly.
- Children enjoy being outside in the fresh air. They develop good physical skills as they climb, jump and balance along the wooden beams. Children learn to recognise numbers while they engage in hopscotch. They develop good hand-to-eye coordination as they roll plastic balls down pieces of guttering.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Leaders and staff have a clear understanding of their role in protecting children from harm. They can identify when a child or family is at risk and can recognise extreme views or behaviours. They know how to report any concerns about a child's welfare to help keep them safe. Leaders ensure that new staff go through a robust recruitment and induction procedure to confirm their suitability to work with children. All staff have frequent supervision meetings with the manager to ensure they continue to be safe around children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop further strategies to help all children understand daily routines and changes throughout the day to help them feel even more settled.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2551232
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	10216941
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	0 to 4
Total number of places	33
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Little Orchard Montessori Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902225
Telephone number	07929825261
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Little Orchard Montessori Chaddlewood registered in 2019 in Plymouth, Devon. The nursery is open from Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6pm, for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery provides free early education funding for children aged two, three and four years old. There are 11 members of staff, most of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications between levels 2 and 6. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation in the toddler room and discussed the quality of teaching.
- The children spoke to the inspector about what they like doing at nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents and read written statements about how they view the nursery.
- A range of documents were looked at, including the complaints log, accident forms and the safeguarding policy.

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.

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