

Inspection of Blue Butterfly Montessori

5 Barrow Point Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3HQ

Inspection date: 24 February 2022

Overall effectiveness **Good**

The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children show that they are very happy, safe and settled in this warm and welcoming nursery. For instance, babies happily put their arms up to staff to be cuddled. Older children seek out their key person to read a story with. Staff plan a curriculum which challenges children. They think carefully about the skills that they want children to learn. For example, staff organise activities to help children develop the physical skills they need for later writing. Babies enjoy experiencing different tastes and textures with watermelon. They play with their families with the sensory packs, blowing bubbles and squishing with water. Toddlers show their delight when digging outside with the mud, or carefully bathing their babies in the water tray. Older children begin to make meaningful marks using a range of writing implements. Many children can write their names and read simple words.

Staff encourage all children to behave well. Children happily share, take turns and play cooperatively together. When the nursery was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff made sure that they kept in touch with children and their families. They kept in contact and shared ideas with parents to extend their children's learning at home. This helped children to continue to develop and a smooth transition to settle them back in.

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

- Staff watch children closely to find out what they know and can do. They plan activities to follow children's interests and support their next phase in their development. Parents receive lots of information about their children's progress. They have daily discussions with staff and have access to an online assessment system which they really appreciate. This helps to keep parents up to date with their children's learning.
- Children have many opportunities to explore and investigate using a range of different materials. Babies excitedly clap and move in time to nursery rhyme songs. Toddlers concentrate as they pour the water from one container to another. Older children become 'scientists' when they use magnifying glasses to investigate fossils. They are curious about the lives of dinosaurs, asking questions about how they lived and what they ate.
- Staff recognise that children had limited opportunities to develop their large-physical skills during the COVID-19 pandemic. They plan lots of activities for children to develop their skills in this area. For example, older children practise different ways of moving, speeding with their scooters and bikes, while toddlers crawl, climb and slide down large play apparatus.
- Children's language development is developing well. Staff repeat the sounds back that babies make and encourage them to join in with rhymes and songs. They provide a commentary on older children's play and introduce new letters

and sounds. Older children ask each other questions during their 'show-and-tell' sessions. Staff attend training to help develop their understanding of phonological awareness further to benefit children.

- Staff feel well supported by managers and are happy in their roles. They have access to training to extend their knowledge. Staff receive good support from an external adviser, the franchise group and strong links with local schools. For example, recently, they discussed ways to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Managers recognise that staff would benefit from a wider range of professional development opportunities to explore the more recent changes to early years practice.
- Children understand how to keep themselves healthy. They learn about good dental hygiene and the importance of eating a good diet. Children enjoy healthy and home-cooked meals in the nursery. They learn how plants grow and why it is important to look after the environment. Children care for their belongings by storing them in their 'peg-pockets'. Staff extend and widen their experiences as they sing songs in French, borrow books from the library and learn computing skills. However, staff do not consistently teach older children about online safety.
- Staff and children learn from each other about various festivals and the wide variety of cultures that they come from. They share vocabulary in different languages, such as Italian and Romanian. This helps to support children who speak those languages at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

All staff have a secure knowledge of how to protect children. They have a good knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Managers make sure that staff understand the action to take if they have a concern about a child in their care. They are very clear about how to deal with allegations. Children play in a clean and hygienic environment. Staff teach children about how to keep themselves safe when, for example, children learn about the importance of being careful if their friends have food allergies.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- explore a wider range of professional development opportunities for staff so that the quality of education is maximised
- help older children to develop an understanding of online safety.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY438813
Local authority	Harrow
Inspection number	10137973
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	86
Number of children on roll	88
Name of registered person	Blue Butterfly Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP904803
Telephone number	02084299446
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2016

Information about this early years setting

Blue Butterfly Montessori registered in 2011 and is located in Pinner, in the London Borough of Harrow. It is open each weekday from 8am to 6pm all year round, except for bank holidays. The nursery provides early funded education for children aged three and four years. It employs 37 staff. Of these, 23 staff work permanently with children. 26 members of staff hold relevant childcare qualifications at level 3 and above, including one who holds qualified teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sandra Teacher

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- Interactions between staff and children was observed and evaluated by the inspector and the manager.
- The manager and the inspector completed a learning walk to gain an overview of how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held discussions with the leadership team, staff, the proprietor and the operations manager. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working at the setting.

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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