

Inspection of Casa dei Bambini Day Nursery

St. Johns Hall, St. Johns Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0HF

Inspection date: 5 April 2022

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and safe at the nursery. They are independent and explore their surroundings with ease. Children choose activities from the well-organised environment which challenges their thinking and allows them to test out their play ideas. For example, they sit at a table with a mirror and writing materials and draw self-portraits and share these with the staff. Some children develop this activity further by drawing their family members. Babies enjoy sitting in the coloured paper and smile as they throw it up in the air and watch it fall.

Children learn the importance of being physically active. They show positive attitudes in their play. For example, they demonstrate persistence when practising their skills on the balancing blocks. They keep trying until they achieve success.

Children are creative as they explore the outdoor mud kitchen. They make their own 'dinner' and work together to share the pots and pans. Inside, they confidently use the smaller equipment. They use knives to cut up the fresh fruit and vegetables. Children build roads with the tracks and talk about the shapes they have made. They correctly predict that one and one make two, as they develop their mathematical skills.

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

- The leadership team have made significant improvements since the last inspection. They have taken action to address the previous safeguarding concerns. Regular supervision takes place and staff have undertaken extra training. For example, recent training has strengthened staff knowledge of the role of the key person. This system is now secure within the nursery. The newly recruited staff work well with the established team members. They complement each other and have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Staff plan the curriculum well and children make good progress from their starting points. They provide children with a range of interesting indoor and outdoor learning opportunities. Overall, children engage in the activities. However, there are times when some children can become overlooked, or not have their needs met. For example, when they are outside, or sitting down in large groups, younger children can become less engaged.
- Staff promote communication and language well. Children and staff sing spontaneously throughout the day. For example, children start singing 'one, two, three, four, five', as they wash their hands for lunch. Older children use scientific language, such as 'pipette' and 'syringe', as they create potions with their rose water and bay leaves. Staff increase children's vocabulary and knowledge through regular storytelling and effective questioning techniques.
- Partnership with parents are good. Parents talk positively about the recent

changes. They say they receive ideas to help their children to continue their learning at home. Parents comment that their children 'adore' coming to nursery and want to 'move in'. They receive regular communication, including the recommended 'book of the week'.

- Children behave well and understand what is expected of them. For example, during outdoor play, children return the equipment after use. Staff praise children regularly, which increases their self-esteem. Children's independence is well developed. They confidently carry water for their chosen activities and walk slowly so that none is spilt.
- Children understand the importance of good hygiene routines. They wash their hands before meals and staff encourage children to wash in-between their fingers. Older children explain that they must wash their hands after using the toilet. Children wipe their noses using the tissues provided. They independently dispose of these in the bins. This helps to further encourage children's understanding of personal hygiene.
- The baby room is a safe, secure environment for babies to explore. They confidently crawl up the climbing frame steps. Babies slide down the slope, met by a familiar adult at the bottom. They move around the room freely and access the range of sensory experiences available to them. Toddlers reach out to the hanging balloons positioned appropriately to help them take their first steps. This helps to develop their confidence and physical development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Since the last inspection, the leadership team have reviewed their safeguarding practice. They understand their responsibilities to keep children safe. Staff are familiar with the signs and symptoms of abuse. They are aware of the procedures to follow if they have concerns about children's welfare. All staff undertake child protection training. Safeguarding discussions take place at staff meetings and during supervision. This helps to reinforce staff's understanding of their responsibilities to protect children. Staff know about wider safeguarding issues, such as the 'Prevent' duty and county lines. Recruitment procedures are robust. This helps to ensure that all adults working with children are suitable.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review the organisation to ensure that younger children have their needs met consistently throughout the day.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY297374
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10213399
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	47
Number of children on roll	24
Name of registered person	Hartley House Montessori Limited T/A Eco Montessori
Registered person unique reference number	RP910080
Telephone number	01962 855412
Date of previous inspection	7 October 2021

Information about this early years setting

Casa dei Bambini Day Nursery is run by Hartley House Montessori Ltd. It registered in 2004 and is located in Winchester, Hampshire. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm, all year round. It receives funding to provide free early education for three- and four-year-old children. The nursery employs nine members of staff. Of these, one has early years teacher status, one holds early years professional status, one is qualified at level 6, two hold a level 5 qualification and two hold an appropriate qualification at level 3. The nursery operates in line with the Montessori method of teaching.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lindsay Osman

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a communication and language activity with the manager.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The manager showed the inspector documentation to demonstrate the suitability of staff.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.

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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