

Inspection of Alexandra Montessori

Ved Court, Alexandra Road, HOUNSLOW TW3 1LS

Inspection date: 27 July 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	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children separate from their carers well and are eager to start their play. Children learn through the Montessori approach, which focuses on creative learning. For example, older children build a complex 'car park tower' out of wooden blocks, showing their creativity. Younger children enjoy playing with 'real life' items in the kitchen role-play area, for example, they explore real vegetables. They are learning about the world around them. Children show happiness in all areas of their play and care. The impact of the curriculum is clear. Children make good progress in their learning. Children leaving to go to school are ready for their next step in education.

Staff have high overall expectations for all children. They work towards their ethos of supporting children to become happy, independent, confident and caring. This supports children to develop sound values for later in life. Children behave well, tidy up their toys and share with their friends. Staff provide a warm and caring environment where children feel content and secure. Children spontaneously approach staff for hugs and cuddle up contentedly. Parents give glowing feedback on how happy they are with the nursery and it is clear that their children are very happy there too.

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

- Children are encouraged to eat healthily. They thoroughly enjoy their meals while they talk about eating 'healthy carrots and cucumber'. Managers take pride in providing meals that are 'made with love'. The nursery chooses to provide a vegetarian menu only. This is to reduce their carbon footprint. Parents are fully supportive of this choice to be sustainable. Staff and children at the setting have been working towards sustainability. Children are learning to grow their own vegetables.
- Staff provide individual care for each child. For example, they follow babies' home routines for eating and sleeping. This ensures that all children's care needs are being met and that routines are kept consistent. Children and babies are therefore happy and content.
- Children have the opportunity to make choices. Recently, children voted on what nursery pet they would like to have. The children voted for fish and now have fish to care for. Children are learning that their thoughts and opinions make a difference.
- All children are well behaved. They follow the nursery's 'golden rules' which support them to respect toys, be kind, tidy up and share. Children are learning values that will support them later in their life.
- Managers evaluate the setting and create plans for growth. For example, they are keen to enrol all unqualified staff on the level 3 early years qualification. This

shows their drive towards continuous development for the setting and therefore the children's learning and development.

- The intent, implementation and impact of the curriculum are evident throughout the nursery. Staff use children's interests to plan activities and resources that promote each child's learning.
- Staff partner with parents to support the children's learning. Parents contribute to their child's learning by sharing their child's interests. For example, one parent reported that their child had taken an interest in science experiments. The nursery used this information to plan science experiments for the children to take part in.
- Staff provide good overall opportunities for children to build on what they already know and can do. For example, they ask questions that support children's thinking. However, on occasion, they do not always use techniques, including questioning, effectively enough to stretch and challenge children's knowledge.
- Children are learning to care for their environment. Children recently planted sunflowers. They talk about how to care for them and how they need 'sunshine and water to help them grow'. When the sun comes out, they excitedly check to see if they have flowered and measure them to see how much they have grown. Children are seeing the results of their love and care and are learning to be patient.
- Staff provide children with some links to the community. For example, the local dentist attends the setting to talk to children about oral hygiene. However, children have limited experiences beyond this to learn about their wider community and extend their learning even further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Managers provide a safe and secure environment for staff and children. Risk assessments ensure that staff remove hazards from the indoor and outdoor space, allowing children to play safely. Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe. Staff have knowledge on a broad range of safeguarding topics. Staff know how to report concerns about children and adults, for example, they know how to contact the local authority. Staff complete training on safeguarding and put this into practice. For example, staff monitor children's attendance through registers and follow up when they do not attend.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- raise the quality of education to ensure enough challenge is provided and each child's learning is maximised

- provide further links to the community to ensure that children experience a range of opportunities to learn about the wider world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2546985
Local authority	Hounslow
Inspection number	10221508
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	37
Number of children on roll	37
Name of registered person	Alexandra Montessori Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2546984
Telephone number	07941656945
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Alexandra Montessori registered in 2019. It is based in the London Borough of Hounslow. The setting is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round. The setting is a Montessori nursery. The nursery is registered to receive government funding for two-, three- and four-year-old children. Staff have a range of early years qualifications from level 2 through to level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Nicole Odell

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 viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises with the managers.
- The director, manager and inspector completed a learning walk together of all areas of the nursery and discussed the early years curriculum.
- Children told the inspector about their friends and what they like to do when they are at nursery.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke with the nominated individual about the leadership and management of the setting.
- The special educational needs coordinator spoke to the inspector about how they support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of an activity with the manager.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

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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