

Inspection of Horsham Montessori

The Scout Hut, Higgins Way, Bennetts Field, off Brighton Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5JZ

Inspection date: 30 March 2023

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive with confidence at this friendly and well-organised establishment. They smile and wave goodbye to their parents as they excitedly walk inside. Children are politely greeted by staff who support them as they take off their coats and put their lunch boxes away.

Children are independent learners. They spoon conkers precisely into shaped trays and become absorbed in carefully using wooden pegs to create a sunshine picture. Children have highly positive attitudes to learning and have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. They intently explore the different resources available and remind one another to put them away before they move on to another activity.

The manager and staff regularly and effectively use a nearby allotment to deliver their well-planned curriculum. Children learn about growth and recognise different plants. Staff use appropriate questioning to extend this knowledge. Children become confident communicators as staff support them in building questioning techniques themselves. For example, at circle time, older children ask what interesting items other children have seen today at the allotment. They discuss the beans and pods that they have found.

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

- The manager has a broad and ambitious curriculum. She intends for children to be supported by knowledgeable staff as they move through the different, purposeful learning areas. Staff carefully plan for children and know them well. They have high expectations for all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Staff and managers work closely with other professionals to ensure children are supported fully in continuing to make good progress.
- Children demonstrate their knowledge of their unique learning environment as they explain the significance of the 'noisy' room and the 'quiet' room at the setting. Children fully explore their physical abilities in the noisy room as they run, jump and balance on stepping stones. They perfect their catching skills with staff who encourage and support them well.
- Staff inspire children as they build on their knowledge. Children who have chosen to get out their writing books and draw with ease confidently write their names. Staff come alongside them as they discuss what they are drawing. They build on children's skills as they explain that an exclamation mark can be used at the end of the phrase 'wake up'. Children are thoroughly engaged as they build strong literacy skills.
- Parents explain that they are very happy with the communication they receive

from staff. They know who their child's key worker is and are given frequent opportunities to talk to them. Parents also tell the inspector how they can securely log in online to access pictures and progress information. They can also upload any home-learning achievements too. Parent partnerships are strong.

- Overall, children behave well and staff support them in learning about the impact of their behaviour. However, at times, staff do not consistently remind children of rules, such as the 'rule of three' in the block room and book room. Furthermore, when children are playing with hand-gel dispensers, only some staff remind children that they are not a toy and how they should be used correctly, while other staff ignore it. Consequently, children are not consistently reminded of rules and therefore do not always follow them.
- Staff support children in developing a strong sense of personal character, and children can confidently express elements of their own culture that are important to them. The manager and staff teach children about the importance of contributing positively to their community. Children have their art work displayed in the town library and visit local care facilities to sing for the residents.
- The manager supports staff by providing them with a wealth of training opportunities. She regularly completes supervision sessions and ensures staff remain suitable for their roles. Staff report that they feel well supported and have access to statutory training, as well as additional training for their own professional development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The safety and welfare of children is fully assured at the setting. The manager has a clear and robust safeguarding policy in place. Staff are knowledgeable about the local authority reporting procedure they should follow should they be concerned about the conduct of an adult working with children. Staff have received up-to-date training on the signs and symptoms that might alert them to a child that has become victim to abuse. The manager ensures there are rigorous safety checks completed regularly around the setting, including checks on secure gates and fire doors.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on how rules and expectations are consistently explained and delivered to children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY333671
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10280101
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 4
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	64
Name of registered person	Horsham Montessori Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902769
Telephone number	01403 750 504
Date of previous inspection	28 September 2017

Information about this early years setting

Horsham Montessori registered in 2006. It is open from 8.30am to 4pm each weekday. The setting employs 11 staff. Of these, seven staff hold an early years qualification at level 3 or above. The setting receives funding to provide free early education for children aged three and four years. The setting operates in line with the Montessori educational philosophy.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicola Houston

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 manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the setting.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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