

Inspection of The New Montessori Pre-School

Methodist Church, Tarring Road, WORTHING, West Sussex BN11 4ET

Inspection date: 22 May 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety cannot be assured. No staff on the premises hold a valid and up-to-date paediatric first-aid certificate. This means that staff are not trained to administer emergency first aid if necessary. This is a breach of the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

Despite this significant weakness, children are happy and engaged at the pre-school. For example, they quickly become involved in painting tomato plant pictures. Staff support this activity by encouraging children to use their senses and smell the plant. Staff also discuss the nutritional benefits of fruit and vegetables, and fully explain how the vitamins they contain are good for our bodies. Children are learning about the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Children build meaningful relationships with their friends and adults. They have significant bonds with their key person, and separate with confidence from their parents when they arrive. Children demonstrate good levels of respect for one another. They excitedly use their imaginations and lay out a picnic together. Children talk about the different foods they have and what they might have at a picnic with their family. Children build good communication and social skills as they play together.

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

- Leaders fail to ensure that there is a member of staff on site who holds a full paediatric first-aid certificate, as required. On the day of the inspection, leaders were also unable to provide evidence of their public liability insurance and the qualifications of the leaders of the pre-school. As a result, their suitability cannot be fully verified. This compromises children's safety.
- Leaders create an ambitious curriculum that staff follow and implement well. They carefully design learning experiences that build on children's knowledge. Leaders and staff have high expectations for children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. They work closely with other professionals and schools that children are transitioning to. This supports children's preparation for future learning.
- Staff support children in learning about their personal needs. For example, when children sneeze into their hands, staff give them clear and meaningful explanations to help them understand why they need to wash the germs away. Children's understanding of good health is supported well.
- Staff read stories with enthusiasm and excitement. Children thoroughly enjoy this and frequently show an interest in text in the environment. Staff recognise when children are interested in learning about letters and sounds. They provide them with activities that extend and enrich their knowledge. Furthermore,

children and parents have access to a book box, which they can select a story from to take home and read together. Children's developing literacy skills are fully promoted.

- Older children build good independence skills. They pour their own drinks and self-select their activities. However, at times, staff do not consider the age and stage of development of younger children. For example, young children are repeatedly given an instruction that they do not understand, and they struggle to get a drink for themselves. Younger children are not always supported as much as possible.
- Children behave well and understand certain rules, such as waiting until it is their turn in the garden. They learn about sharing equipment when they are playing with play dough together. Staff support them with this, explaining that there are only three rolling pins and five children at the table.
- Parents explain that they are very happy with the communication they receive from their child's key person. They know that they can access information about their child's progress and next steps, either online or by speaking with staff. Parent and staff partnerships are strong.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Significant breaches to the safeguarding and welfare requirements compromise the safety of children. However, leaders do implement a robust safeguarding policy. Staff have appropriate knowledge of how to identify signs of abuse and how to report any concerns they might have about a child. Staff and leaders are also able to explain the local authority reporting procedures they must follow should they ever have a concern about a member of staff working with children. Staff are able to clearly explain their extended knowledge of other types of abuse, such as female genital mutilation.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure that at least one member of staff with a valid and up-to-date first-aid certificate is on the premises at all times	02/06/2023
ensure that valid public liability insurance is available for inspection	02/06/2023

ensure that relevant qualification certificates that demonstrate the suitability of the leaders of the pre-school are easily accessible for inspection.	09/06/2023
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- strengthen staff knowledge around how to support and create appropriate learning opportunities for younger children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY330146
Local authority	West Sussex
Inspection number	10276347
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	52
Number of children on roll	40
Name of registered person	The New Montessori Pre-School
Registered person unique reference number	RP526083
Telephone number	01903 535412
Date of previous inspection	12 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

The New Montessori Pre-School registered in 2006. The pre-school employs 13 members of childcare staff. Of these, one has qualified teacher status, one is qualified at level 6, two hold qualifications at level 4 and six hold qualifications at level 3. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday for most of the year. Sessions are from 7.30am to 5.30pm. The pre-school provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicola Houston

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the pre-school 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 setting.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- Staff spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector requested relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the pre-school.

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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