

Inspection of Blue Skies Montessori Nursery

Frankton Road, Whitefield, Manchester M45 7FB

Inspection date: 16 June 2023

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children arrive excited to start their day and quickly become engaged in planned, purposeful play. Children participate in all routines of the day and show a high level of involvement. Children settle exceptionally well. They form trusting bonds with their key person, who is incredibly knowledgeable about their individual developmental needs. Learning is personalised to help children to make good progress. Staff continually strive to help children to 'achieve their true potential'. Children are highly cooperative towards one another. They listen exceptionally well to instructions from staff and their peers. Staff give children a choice about what they would like to do. This fosters children's independence in their play. Children contentedly select what they would like to play with from well-planned resources.

Staff keep the environment well organised for children. Therefore, children learn to take pride and respect in their surroundings, helping to keep it tidy. Staff are excellent role models for children. They take the time to talk to children individually, which promotes a positive learning atmosphere. Children develop ways to self-regulate their behaviour exceptionally. They demonstrate high levels of self-control throughout the day. Children behave beautifully, sharing and cooperating with their friends. Children show excellent attitudes towards learning about the world in which they live. They try hard in all aspects of the day which helps them to master skills for the future. These include, holding a pencil, recognising letter sounds and developing confidence to carry out self-care tasks independently.

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

- The long-standing staff team tailors learning for children well. Staff encourage children to always try hard and concentrate on more challenging tasks, while incorporating their interests. For example, staff create a counting game using a truck and boxes. This helps children to develop their mathematical knowledge and concept of numbers and quantity. Children are highly motivated in their learning and eager to join in.
- Staff are focused on developing children's love of books and literacy skills, because they too love reading. The setting has a vast range of books to support learning. Children practise their recall of events in the story and have discussions about characters. They access non-fiction texts and research facts together with staff. This helps them to make sense of new experiences. Staff carefully select core stories that help children to embed useful literacy skills and develop their knowledge of reading in preparation for school.
- Children learn about the wider world. Staff and children share photographs from their holidays and learn about other countries they have visited. Staff use their interest in travel and exploring different cultures, which enthuses children's curiosity about lives different to their own. Children use and share their home

languages with their peers. Staff organise special events that are personalised for families, such as for St David's Day. Children and parents beam with pride, knowing their identity and heritage is recognised and respected.

- Children's previous experiences and learning are considered as part of curriculum planning. Staff support children's role play and imagination skills very well. For example, children work together to make 'soup'. They cooperatively pass each other the bowls and discuss the ingredients. Children play harmoniously together in the home corner. They practise and develop their language and communication skills to good levels.
- Staff are proactive in continuously developing their own knowledge. They access training and research new ways to enhance the quality of their teaching. For example, staff recently accessed training on self-regulation. This has helped them to engage better with children and understand the needs behind their emotions. Consequently, children show high levels of confidence in social situations and express themselves incredibly well.
- Staff provide opportunities for children to practise gripping, pinching and squeezing with their fingers. This helps develop the small muscles in their hands. Consequently, children develop their expressive drawing and early writing skills very well. In the garden, children learn balance and coordination skills as they use bicycles and scooters. They run and move their bodies as they push dolls and teddy bears around in prams. However, staff do not always effectively sequence the curriculum for children to engage in more challenging physical skills. Consequently, children do not always develop their large muscles and core strength.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Staff are knowledgeable about safeguarding issues that could impact children's welfare. They are confident in the procedures to follow if an allegation is made about a colleague or if they have concerns about a child. Staff extend their vigilance beyond the children in their care. Staff can recognise and understand that changes in children's behaviour could indicate a safeguarding concern. The provider carries out appropriate risk assessments. She ensures that the environment is well maintained and free from hazards. Staff practise emergency evacuations with children to help them to feel confident and know how to behave in case of an emergency.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the curriculum for physical development, to enable children to develop their large-muscle skills and core strength.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY367125
Local authority	Bury
Inspection number	10285926
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	34
Number of children on roll	19
Name of registered person	Blue Skies Montessori Nursery Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP527589
Telephone number	01617 678100
Date of previous inspection	24 October 2017

Information about this early years setting

Blue Skies Montessori Nursery registered in 2008 and is situated in Whitefield, Manchester. The nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, for 51 weeks of the year. There are four members of staff, including the owner. Two members of staff have early years professional status and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 3. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the early education of two-, three- and four-year-old children. It follows the Montessori approach to early years education.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Dee White

Inspection activities

- This was the first 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 nominated individual led the inspector on a learning walk and explained how the curriculum is planned.
- Discussions were held with staff, parents and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed practice and evaluated the quality of activities, together with the nominated individual.
- The inspector looked at documents, including staff qualifications, paediatric first-aid certificates and evidence to demonstrate the suitability of staff.
- The inspector tracked the experiences of children to determine the progress they make.
- The inspector held meetings with the nominated individual to discuss their evaluation of the provision.

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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