

Inspection of Ravenscourt Park Montessori

1 O'clock Club, 39 Ravenscourt Road, London W6 0UJ

Inspection date: 17 January 2024

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The nursery is an exceptionally happy place. Children are excited to arrive and show they feel at home and secure. There is a real sense of community in the nursery. Leaders and staff know the families extremely well and work closely to achieve the best outcomes for children attending.

Staff find out as much as possible about their key children's unique interests and needs from the start. This enables staff to rapidly build on what children already know and enjoy. The nursery managers and parent representatives organise social events to help everyone develop a sense of belonging in the nursery. For example, they arrange summer picnics before children start in the autumn term. This enables children to begin to make relationships with other children attending.

Staff provide a wealth of experiences and a rich and exciting learning environment for children. High-quality teaching and engaging activities, both indoors and outdoors, support children's learning very effectively. For example, children become engrossed in making pancakes in the mud kitchen. They have great fun as they pretend to build fires with logs and lumps of ice. Staff interact highly effectively; they ask questions and help children explore their imaginative ideas. Children are encouraged to make choices and do things for themselves. This helps them develop independence.

Children's behaviour is excellent. Staff set high expectations for children's behaviour. Children develop very positive patterns of behaviour. For example, staff encourage children to negotiate during play. They learn to be patient and regulate their behaviour. Children rapidly learn to be fair, share and take turns. Staff are very positive role models; they speak calmly and politely. This helps children learn how to interact with others and develop excellent social skills from an early age.

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

- Managers and staff have high expectations for all children. The curriculum is very well planned, offers challenge and is highly effective in meeting each child's needs. All children, including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. Staff recognise when to make referrals to other agencies to further support children's individual needs. They work closely with other professionals, parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for all children. Children learn in a fun and age-appropriate way. Staff support children in rapidly developing skills across all areas of learning in preparation for the next stage, including school.
- Staff provide a wealth of opportunities for children to learn about being healthy. For example, children grow and eat fruit and vegetables from the nursery

garden. They use large brushes to clean teeth and develop an understanding of good oral hygiene. Children participate in a wealth of physical activities. They use wheeled toys, make trips to the park and join in forest-school activities. Children learn how to take appropriate risks during play, such as developing skills in using large apparatus.

- Staff are highly effective in supporting children's communication skills. They skilfully question children and encourage them to recap on their learning. For example, they look at books and talk about pirates. Children become engrossed as they dig in sand and rice and search for buried treasure. Staff help children explore their ideas through questioning and introducing new vocabulary. They use visual timetables to enhance support for children who speak English as an additional language.
- Staff are caring and encourage children to explore their feelings. For example, they use a toy monkey to consider a range of different emotions. They think about things which may make the monkey sad or happy. Children express their imaginative ideas as they talk about fearing monsters. They become engrossed in small-group discussions and ask each other questions and listen carefully. Children show concern for each other and offer their friends comfort. Staff help children feel safe; they offer reassurance and talk about what is real or pretend.
- Staff share strong bonds with children and encourage children of all ages and abilities to explore and join in. Children are eager to learn and show high levels of confidence and engagement. For example, they work cooperatively to find bricks to build a castle. Staff encourage their mathematical language as they discuss position and size. Children learn to problem-solve. They persevere when the castle falls and use pictures in books to look at ways to rebuild.
- Partnerships with parents are very strong. Feedback from parents is overwhelmingly positive. Parents speak very highly of the supportive and caring staff. They comment that they are amazed by how much their children learn and how well prepared they are for school. Staff keep parents very well informed about their children's learning. They share their observations and assessments of children. Staff provide ideas for how to extend children's learning at home.
- Children have frequent opportunities to develop a rich understanding of people and families beyond their own. For example, they look at books and learn about similarities and differences. They celebrate a variety of festivals and events throughout the year. Families are welcomed into the nursery to share different foods, cultures and traditions. For example, children learn what it is like to live in a cold country and how to make curry.
- Staff really enjoy working in the nursery. They are very well supported by managers and benefit from team meetings and supervision. Staff have regular development opportunities to enhance practice, for example by training in forest-school techniques to extend opportunities for children learning outdoors. The team shows a strong commitment to continually enhance its already excellent practice.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2647347
Local authority	Hammersmith & Fulham
Inspection number	10305268
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	32
Number of children on roll	34
Name of registered person	Ravenscourt Park Montessori Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2647345
Telephone number	07917 071364
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Ravenscourt Park Montessori registered in 2021. The nursery is situated in Ravenscourt Park in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The nursery is open weekdays, from 8.30am to 3.15pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 12.30pm Friday, during term time only. There are seven members of staff, all of whom hold a relevant qualification at level 3 or above. The manager holds a level 6 qualification. The nursery follows the Montessori philosophy. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Deborah Orchard

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the nursery received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the manager and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the nursery.
- The inspector and the manager completed a learning walk across all areas of the nursery to understand how the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed children, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the quality of teaching.
- Two joint observations were carried out by the inspector and the nursery manager.
- The inspector held discussions with staff, children and parents at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents. This included evidence of staff suitability and training.
- A meeting was held between the inspector and nursery manager and provider. The inspector looked at a sample of the nursery's documents. This included evidence of staff suitability and training.

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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