

Summertown Montessori Nursery

Summertown Church Hall, Portland Road, OXFORD OX2 7EZ



Inspection date	4 June 2019
Previous inspection date	26 November 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The provider has worked hard with the staff and gained support from her early years adviser and external support, to help successfully address the actions and recommendations raised at the last inspection.
- Children are happy and settled. They feel safe and secure in their relationships with staff. Children develop close emotional attachments, confidently seeking out staff for reassurance and to share in their play.
- Staff value the importance of building secure relationships with parents and families to promote children's care and well-being. Staff communicate very effectively with them and involve them well in their children's learning. Parents say their children love coming to nursery. Parents of older children, in particular, comment that staff set their children up for school.
- The provider identifies the strengths of the nursery and areas for further development accurately. She demonstrates a clear ability to make sustained improvements that lead to better outcomes for all children.
- Some small-group activities focus too heavily on the older children, and some younger children do not engage well and participate throughout.
- The new arrangements for helping staff to improve their teaching skills are not yet fully embedded in helping raise the quality of teaching to the highest of standards.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- organise small-group activities more effectively to better meet the needs of the younger children and help them to engage throughout
- ensure new methods used to evaluate staff performance help to improve the quality of teaching and children's achievements to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of staff's interactions with children during activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector completed a joint observation of a planned activity with the provider.
- The inspector spoke to children and staff and held a meeting with the provider.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, records and policies. She checked evidence of the suitability of staff working at the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to children and parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The provider and staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures and know how to manage any concerns they may have about a child's welfare. The provider has worked hard to successfully develop a targeted improvement plan to help her identify strengths and areas for development. Since the last inspection, the provider has been highly focused on creating a well-qualified and knowledgeable staff team. All staff benefit from training sessions focused on teaching and learning. This has a positive impact on the quality of practice. Staff carry out regular checks of the environment to identify and eliminate all hazards and ensure it remains a safe place for children. Since the last inspection, the nursery, including the children's cloakroom area, has had a deep clean with removal of any mould.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff have an enthusiastic approach to their work and show that they enjoy time spent with the children. They regularly observe children as they play to assess their development. This helps to provide a broad understanding of individual children's interests and achievements. The provider carefully tracks children's overall progress to identify areas where children may need extra help. Staff support children to develop their communication and language skills securely. For example, staff model language, use pictures and repeat words to children learning English as an additional language, to develop their understanding and vocabulary.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff promote children's behaviour well and benefit from training focused on behaviour management strategies. They are positive role models who treat children with kindness. Staff talk to children in a calm and respectful manner, gently reminding them about the need to share and take turns with popular resources. Children learn good hygiene routines and develop a good understanding of what it means to lead healthy lifestyles. The garden is spacious and well resourced, with exciting opportunities for children to explore and discover, as well as engage in physical play and exercise.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their individual starting points and gain skills that prepare them for their next stage in learning. They are confident and motivated learners who readily lead their own play. Children are helped to form a positive sense of themselves. They enjoy imaginary play, such as planning pretend parties, talking about what they might need and catching the 'number six bus', in time for the party. Older children acquire skills they need to continue their successful learning at school. They write their names with confidence and learn to follow expectations, for example when sitting together as a whole group to take part in activities. Younger children develop skills in readiness for writing, such as drawing and using dough to help strengthen their small-muscle movements.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408460
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10086496
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	Montessori North Oxford Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP902556
Date of previous inspection	26 November 2018
Telephone number	01865311364

Summertown Montessori Nursery registered in 2010 and operates from a church hall in the Summertown area of Oxford. The nursery is run by Montessori North Oxford Limited. It opens on weekdays from 8am until 5.30pm for 45 weeks of the year. The nursery employs five staff, three of whom hold relevant qualifications, including one with early years professional status.

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