

Brighton & Hove Montessori School

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345611
Inspection date	19 April 2007
Inspector	Chris Mackinnon
Setting Address	Methodist Church, Stanford Avenue, BRIGHTON, BN1 6FD
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Registered person	Brighton & Hove Montessori LTD
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Sessional care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Brighton and Hove Mini Montessori School opened in 2006 and operates from one room within a church hall in Brighton. The setting is owned by the larger independent Brighton and Hove Montessori School. A maximum of eight children aged two to three years may attend at any one time. The setting is open three days a week from 09.00 to 12.15 term-time only. The setting employs two members of staff with appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are healthy and active through staff following clear procedures and practices which meet the children's health and hygiene needs. Younger children's desire for independence in their personal care is supported appropriately but the nappy changing arrangements are not clearly organised. Staff have a sound understanding of children's health and development needs. Children are encouraged to learn new skills and use a sufficient range of tools and materials. Children have access to drinks and an adequate range of snacks is provided that regularly includes fruit. Staff take account of the individual dietary needs of the children. The

regular provision of physical activities within the setting's play programme contributes to children's physical development and general good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to safe and organised play areas. The play environment has been prepared to be welcoming for children, but the setting's heating is not being maintained at an adequate temperature. Children are protected from accidents through close staff supervision and a range of appropriate safety procedures. Staff have a clear awareness of the need for safety and children learn to play safely together. An appropriate selection of resources is available for all children to be expressive and imaginative and to enjoy their activities and have fun. Messy-play, art-crafts materials and shapes and sizes play items are all featured. Sufficient security measures are in place to keep children safe during play sessions. Children are suitably protected by trained staff who have a clear awareness of child protection procedures and the need to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children explore resources, develop confidence and have fun at the setting. Children become involved in the play and learning environment and engage with a wide range of stimulating resources. Many well organised activities are provided to support children's progress and development. Children explore numbers and counting and learn shapes and sizes. Children have many good adult-child interactions to support their developing use of words and language. Art-crafts and the use of making materials is encouraged and children are also helped to develop practical manual skills. Children are imaginative and invent their own games and adapt resources. Staff work closely with children to develop their social confidence and help them feel part of the group. Staff also include activities to support children's awareness of the wider world and children are introduced to nature. The staff team are effective in supporting the children's enjoying and achieving.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed at the setting and encouraged to play co-operatively together. Staff support children effectively in learning to be tidy and sharing, which fosters their social development. Staff are successful in helping children to learn the effects of their actions on others. Staff give close consideration to developing children's sense of belonging and involvement in the group. Children respond well to prompts to care for their surroundings, resources and each other. The setting's learning programme is well organised and stimulating and includes activities to support children's awareness of the wider world. The setting has established good relationships with parents and parents have helpful and consistent contact with staff. Parents are also given clear information on their children's progress and achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the sound organisation of the setting's play environment. Enough staff are deployed to encourage children's development and support their progress. The play areas

are appropriately prepared to encourage expressive and physical activities and provide a range of learning opportunities for children. An organised supply of play resources supports children positively in learning new skills. Children are guided by qualified and experienced staff, who are securely managed by the person in charge. All required record keeping is in place and clearly maintained. Clear policy and guidance material is also in place to ensure the safe and stable management of the setting. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints reported to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- re-organise and improve the nappy changing arrangements
- ensure an adequate temperature is maintained within the setting

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk