

Little Orchard Montessori Nursery Sparkwell

The Old School, Sparkwell, Plymouth, PL7 5DB



Inspection date	17 February 2016
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
Effectiveness of the 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

- Staff know children well and provide effective support to enable them to feel safe and secure. They foster children's independence and cooperation very well. Staff encourage children to make choices in their play from a good range of resources, which are invitingly displayed and easily accessible.
- The management team and staff have effective partnerships with parents, other providers and professionals. They work closely to support children with additional needs to help them achieve well in their learning and development.
- Staff successfully introduce strategies that they learn during training to support children's learning. For example, they use signing and teach children the sounds that letters make to extend children's communication, language and literacy skills.
- The management team and staff reflect on the quality of the provision well and gather the views of parents to help them make ongoing improvements for the benefit of the children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are few opportunities for children to see and recognise numbers to support them further during spontaneous counting and mathematical activities.
- When outdoor play is restricted due to inclement weather, children have limited opportunities to be physically active.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to see and recognise numbers to further promote their mathematical development
- review routines to provide children with more frequent opportunities to be physically active, regardless of the weather.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in all areas, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents.
- The inspector held discussions with management, staff and children.
- The inspector viewed a sample of documentation, including the setting's self-evaluation documentation, staff and children's records, accident and medication records.

Inspector

Sara Frost

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team implements robust procedures for recruitment, training and support for staff to ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities. All staff know what to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Staff implement comprehensive risk assessments to keep children safe. The management team monitors and supports staff's practice and their professional development to continuously improve the quality of teaching. Management tracks children's progress effectively and works closely with staff and parents to quickly identify and close any gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff understand the different ways in which children learn, providing resources and activities that appeal to their interests. Children enjoy learning about space and staff use this opportunity to encourage children's concentration, small muscle development and shape recognition. For example, children focus well as they construct a space ship using different sized boxes and join them together using string. Staff support and follow younger children's interests. For example, staff lift up a child to see a digger through the nursery window and talk about it. When they go outside, they take the child to see the digger close up, watching the arm move up and down. Staff use a range of strategies to promote children's communication and vocabulary. For example, they talk and sign with the children about what the digger is doing, while comparing it to the toy vehicles in the sand pit.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff teach children to share, take turns and play cooperatively. They encourage older children to resolve problems fairly. Staff are positive role models and encourage children to value and respect others. Staff invite parents in to share their family festivals and celebrations with the children to help them learn about diversity in meaningful ways. Children enjoy being outdoors and, overall, make good use of the well-resourced outdoor area.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain the key skills they need for their future learning and school. They are independent and have many opportunities to make choices and decisions in their play. Children share what they learn, for example, that we live on a planet called Earth. Children's behaviour is good and they enjoy the responsibility of being helpful. For example, older children help to prepare the dessert by carefully cutting up fresh fruit.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY476308
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	968568
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 7
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	46
Name of provider	Little Orchard Montessori Nurseries Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01752837883

Little Orchard Montessori Nursery re-registered in 2014. The nursery is located in the village of Sparkwell on the outskirts of Plymouth, Devon. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am until 6pm for 51 weeks of the year, closing for a week at Christmas and all bank holidays. The nursery is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 10 members of staff in total, including a cook and the two directors. Of these, eight staff hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. The nursery follows the Montessori method of education.

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