

Prima Montessori Day Nursery

Elm Court, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3JQ



Inspection date

1 April 2016

Previous inspection date

9 September 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff provide an exceptional range of activities and experiences that fascinate and interest children. Children are exceptionally happy and settled, and thrive in the highly welcoming and stimulating environment. They make extremely good progress in their learning.
- Staff track children's progress extremely effectively to ensure there are no gaps in learning. Staff and managers work together particularly well to monitor the progress of all children, planning exciting challenges to move them forward in their learning.
- Children learn about healthy lifestyles. For example, they enjoy extremely nutritious snacks and meals, and are highly involved in the preparation of their substantial tea at the end of the day.
- Staff offer children consistent praise and teach them to behave well and to value and respect each other. For example, they role model excellent sharing and turn taking, and successfully involve older children in deciding the rules in their playrooms.
- All staff place an extremely high priority on keeping children safe and are vigilant about staff deployment. For example, they complete thorough risk assessments and identify when children and staff leave a room to use different areas of the nursery. This, and a highly effect alarm system, keeps children very safe.
- Leadership of the nursery is exceptional and managers place an extremely high priority on the well-being of staff and children. Staff receive excellent professional support to consistently promote positive outcomes for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the existing excellent partnerships with parents to promote their active involvement in all aspects of the nursery even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the children and staff interacting together indoors and outdoors.
- The inspectors talked to parents, staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspectors held a meeting with the management team.
- The inspectors completed a joint inspection with the early years leader.
- The inspectors looked at a sample of paperwork, including staff qualifications, evidence of suitability and nursery policies and procedures.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Managers evaluate the strengths of the nursery exceptionally well and all staff take part in ongoing professional development to develop their teaching skills. For example, training on outdoor activities led to exciting walks in woods and an inspiring plan for ongoing development. Furthermore, staff took part in an interactive workshop to heighten the importance of creative play and now provide an excellent range of materials for children to explore. Safeguarding is effective. All staff are highly knowledgeable and fully understand their responsibility to protect children. They are extremely confident with the procedure to follow if they have concerns about the welfare of children and families.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an excellent understanding of how to extend children's play and engage their curiosity. For example, a child's interest in the sand and oil led to talk about 'moon sand' and walking on the moon. Children listened enthusiastically to a story about space before excitedly pretending to 'moon walk'. They were highly engaged as staff extended their play further, for example, creating rockets and spaceships from everyday materials. Staff promote physical development exceptionally well. For example, younger children eagerly used their whole bodies to explore flour, and all children have daily exercise in the highly stimulating outdoor area. There are highly interesting resources, such as tweezers, water pumps and the creation of dens and obstacle courses indoors and in the forest.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff know their key children extremely well and effectively promote their individual well-being. For example, younger children eagerly explore resources in a calm and nurturing environment, where cosy baskets allow children to decide when to rest. Staff work very closely with parents and other professionals. For example, they create home learning bags to encourage children's learning at home and support children's specific needs very effectively. However, further steps to involve parents in all aspects of the nursery are still in development. Staff promote hygiene extremely well. For example, they consistently use appropriate clothing for preparing food and for toilet routines, and skilfully use mirrors to help children effectively clean their own faces.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children build excellent relationships and communicate extremely well with each other. For example, older children confidently recall the content of stories and learn the letters of their name. Children are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning. For example, they practise early writing using a variety of resources, such as clipboards, marker pens and large chinks. Children from a young age have exceptional independence as they gain skills, such as putting on their coats and managing zips.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY230735
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	826402
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 - 8
Total number of places	119
Number of children on roll	200
Name of provider	Prima Montessori Ltd
Date of previous inspection	9 September 2010
Telephone number	01634 838400

Prima Montessori Day Nursery registered in 2002 and is in Gillingham, Kent. The nursery is open each weekday from 7am to 7pm, for 52 weeks of the year. It employs 40 members of staff, 33 of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. This includes six members of staff qualified to degree level, two of whom hold Early Years Professional Status and one holds Qualified Teacher Status. The nursery receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The nursery follows the Montessori method of teaching.

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