

Leighs Montessori Nurseries



The Den, Westfield Terrace, GATESHEAD, Tyne and Wear, NE8 4LD

Inspection date	15 June 2016
Previous inspection date	15 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- Leadership is extremely strong. Effective systems to monitor how it is implemented are in place. Staff supervisions sessions are timely and sharply focused to improve the already outstanding practice. The careful reflection of what works well and what could be improved is key to the nursery's continued improvement.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. The information they provide about their children contributes significantly to the staff's success in accurately planning for and meeting each child's needs. Parents are fully informed about the educational programme and are actively involved in supporting their children's learning at home and in the nursery.
- There are extremely close links with local schools. Key persons ensure Reception class teachers are well informed about children's abilities and learning priorities and have opportunities to meet children at nursery.
- All children make excellent progress because their needs are very carefully considered and provided for. They are very confident to explore and investigate and eager to benefit from the superb range of opportunities provided in the nursery. As a result, they become highly motivated learners.
- Exceptionally secure attachments are forged between children and their key person. Children quickly develop a sense of belonging and grow in confidence. Staff are extremely kind and nurturing.
- Staff skilfully promote children's good behaviour, confidence, independence and positive relationships. Children play exceptionally well together. Staff consistently praise and celebrate children's efforts and achievements so they want to do well.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to work with parents to help them become familiar with the newly introduced electronic learning journal system.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the provider and nursery manager. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the nursery's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a small selection of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The provider and manager provide a very clear sense of direction and determination to help all children achieve to the best of their ability. The progress of individual children and of groups is monitored carefully to identify and close gaps in learning rapidly. There is a very strong focus on professional development with many staff in all roles continuing to increase their qualifications. This has a very positive impact on the high-quality teaching and the continuous improvement of children's learning experiences. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. All staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities to protect children in their care. Parents are extremely positive about the way the nursery works, the progress their children make and how it helps them to understand their learning. The provider and manager are currently carrying out workshops to ensure all parents are confident in the use of the newly introduced electronic learning journals.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff have an extensive knowledge of how young children learn and an excellent awareness of each child's individual needs. They use these well to provide interesting and challenging activities that provide the right level of difficulty for all children. Children and babies' language and communication skills develop rapidly because staff listen and grasp every opportunity to build on this and extend their speaking skills. Older children's early skills in reading, writing and mathematics are promoted strongly in all activities. The most able children already have a good grasp of the sounds letters make. They attempt to write simple words, count in sequence up to 20 and carry out simple mathematical calculations. They make discoveries by measuring plant growth and record their findings. Children use their imagination well. They improvise and use sieves to act as space helmets. Staff support them to create space ships using recyclable material. Children naturally recall prior learning as they name the planets and describe some of their features.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Staff are excellent role models and everybody is treated with the greatest respect. Staff are particularly effective in encouraging less-confident children to join in activities and develop their self-esteem. Babies are calm and settled. They explore the nursery with confidence, having the reassurance of knowing their key person is close by. The outside area is used exceptionally well to encourage children's independent, investigative skills and their physical development. Children also benefit from yoga sessions which help them to be calm, develop control of their bodies and gain confidence.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make exceptional progress from their starting points. They are highly inquisitive and demonstrate a real thirst for learning and enjoy the teaching. Children begin their journey as writers through the many stimulating opportunities for making marks. They learn to be independent in the choices they make and in their daily routines. The skills they gain contribute significantly to children being ready for school when the time comes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY349660
Local authority	Gateshead
Inspection number	863292
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	31
Number of children on roll	57
Name of registered person	W.O.W! (Welcome to Our World) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP905439
Date of previous inspection	15 April 2011
Telephone number	0191 477 1097

Leighs Montessori Nurseries has been registered since 2007. The nursery employs 12 members of staff. Of these, one holds early years professional status, six hold early years qualifications at level 5, two hold early years qualifications level 4 and three hold early years qualifications at level 3. The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am until 6pm. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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