

Mill Cottage Montessori School Day Care

Wakefield Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 4HA



Inspection date	13 May 2019
Previous inspection date	27 January 2015

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

- The management team are visionary leaders who are uncompromising in their drive to improve outcomes for children. Self-evaluation is extremely effective and takes into consideration the views of staff, parents and children.
- Strong teamwork between staff, parents, therapists and healthcare professionals ensure that all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, fully engage with their learning and make excellent progress.
- Staff have an excellent knowledge of how children learn and fully understand the individual needs of children. This underpins the planning of rich and varied activities that allow all children to flourish. Children quickly develop a love of learning.
- Staff closely observe children's progress and accurately assess their learning needs. They are extremely swift to identify any delays in children's development and ensure that any gaps are rapidly reduced.
- The behaviour of children is excellent. Most pre-school children have social skills beyond those usually found in children of their age. They work together, take turns and can talk about their feelings and behaviour well. As a result, children play happily together and explore their environment collaboratively.
- Children settle very well and thrive in this setting. Staff provide a highly impressive, welcoming and calm environment. Children develop very strong emotional attachments with staff from the start. Staff are especially caring, attentive and nurturing.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on children's excellent knowledge of people's similarities and differences, including how people communicate in different ways.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider, staff and children. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of adults working in the setting.
- The inspector took the views of parents into account.

Inspector
Helene Terry

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Recruitment and vetting procedures are robust. This ensures that staff are suitable to work with children. The management team monitor the performance of staff exceptionally well. They ensure high levels of consistency in teaching are maintained throughout the setting. Staff have very good access to training to keep their knowledge continually up to date. In addition, the well-being of staff is fully considered. This benefits the learning outcomes for children to a high degree. The management team are currently devising ways of helping children understand about how people communicate in different ways. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There is a culture of vigilance across the setting and children's welfare is at the heart of daily practice. The management team ensures all staff are extremely confident of their role in recognising any safeguarding concerns. Consequently, children are protected extremely well.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff work exceptionally well to plan highly effective and individual targets to support children's development. They successfully enrich children's experiences. Staff are extremely skilled at adapting activities to meet the needs and interests of children. They support babies as they explore the different textures on the floor tiles with their hands and feet. Toddlers make predictions and investigate what happens when they add vinegar to baking powder or bicarbonate of soda. Pre-school children develop their knowledge about the life cycle of bees and butterflies to a great depth. Children's communication and language skills are exceptional. Staff introduce new vocabulary as children play. For example, as children bake, staff talk with them about the difference between a serrated and smooth edge cutter.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The exceptionally enabling and natural outdoor environment supports children's physical development to a high degree. The use of nursery pets promotes a nurturing and caring ethos while giving children a greater understanding of the world. For example, children delight in bathing the rabbit and feeding the chickens. Children are highly independent. Toddlers show great pride as they help staff sweep up the rabbit's straw. Pre-school children eagerly wash the tables and utensils after their baking activity and set the tables for lunch. Children learn about kindness and respect and learn to help each other. For example, they pour drinks for each other and find each other's shoes. Children receive an exceptionally healthy diet. They grow and harvest their own fruit and vegetables from the garden. In addition, they learn to identify fruits and vegetables and make healthy choices.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for their next stage in learning, including their move on to school. They learn that writing has meaning as they look at recipe cards when they bake. In addition, staff encourage them to find books that give them more information about bees. Children have a highly impressive understanding of the solar system. They talk excitedly about the difference between a star and a planet and use mathematical terms when they compare the sizes of different planets.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317102
Local authority	Calderdale
Inspection number	10103796
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	128
Name of registered person	Mill Cottage Montessori School Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP525943
Date of previous inspection	27 January 2015
Telephone number	01484 400500

Mill Cottage Montessori School Day Care registered in 2005. It follows the educational philosophy of Montessori. The setting employs 21 members of staff. All staff hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 2 or above. A number of staff hold qualified teacher status and early years teacher status. The setting opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round. It provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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