

Merrydays Montessori Nursery - Whole School Observation Report

Assessor's Observation Record on how Merrydays Montessori Nursery meets the Montessori Education (UK) criteria for accreditation

Assessor's Name: Helen Prochazka Date of visit: 9th July 2019 Age group observed: 3 years (free-flow)

Criterion	Observed evidence	Met	Not Met
1. Safeguarding: Children are safe, secure and safeguarded at all times	The gates were securely locked, the front door was manned and visitors were signed in. The safeguarding procedures are all in place, the staff are regularly and thoroughly trained and it is obvious that a strong safe-guarding culture is well-embedded.	x	
2. Qualifications of staff: The school is led by a Montessori qualified teacher; class teachers are qualified at, or working towards Montessori qualifications relevant to the age group they're working with; non-Montessori qualified staff are undertaking Montessori professional development.	The school is led by a Montessori qualified teacher Yes, Mrs Everley is Montessori trained and highly experienced. As one member of staff observed, 'She leads by example.'	x	
	Class teachers are qualified at, or working towards Montessori qualifications relevant to the age group they are working with Across the staff team of 10 there are 5 staff members who are Montessori trained and one of these also has QTS. Three of the remaining 5 have QTS and one is certified as a teaching assistant.	x	
	Non-Montessori qualified staff are undertaking Montessori professional development Two of the staff members with QTS would be interested in undertaking Montessori training. The one staff member with neither formal Montessori qualifications, nor QTS, has undergone in-house Montessori training and attends conferences.	x	
3. Vertical grouping: Classes are a mixed-age group.	Although space in the indoor environment is nominally allocated to specific age-groups during the observation visit there was an impressive free-flow by children of all ages throughout the whole environment, something which was entirely spontaneous, and which clearly happens routinely. An example was the primary aged children who arrived spontaneously and unobtrusively in the hall to practise on the piano, to the delight and interest of the younger children. This freeflow facilitates transitions and results in a truly inclusive learning community.	x	

Criterion	Observed evidence	Met	Not Met
<p>4.Care: Care routines embody the Montessori ethos</p>	<p>Children are supervised and supported appropriately in meeting their individual personal hygiene needs with as great a degree of independence as possible.</p>	x	
<p>5.Observation, planning and assessment: The school undertakes written observations of the children which inform their assessment, review and planning of the provision.</p>	<p>Observations Observations are carried out systematically. The head teacher does peer and classroom observations. Other staff members carry out detailed observations from time to time. Post-it note observations and photos form part of the children's learning journals and the triangle recording system is in place to show at a glance where the children are up to with each piece of material. A colour-coding system is in place to show at a glance which month each part of the record was made.</p>	x	
	<p>Planning A monthly list of next steps for each child is prepared on the basis of the records kept and adjusted as necessary throughout the month. An overview of each child's progress is created in preparation each time there is a meeting with the parents. The parents record their comments. <i>My Montessori Learning</i> is used to correlate elements of the Montessori curriculum to the EYFS.</p>	x	
	<p>Assessment Evaluation of the observation records and the records of the children's mastery of the materials feed into the individual planning for the following month.</p>	x	
<p>6. Montessori-driven management structures: Management structures allow for the implementation of Montessori principles and support staff in their professional development.</p>	<p>Management structures allow implementation of Montessori principles Throughout the visit it was apparent that Montessori values and the Montessori ethos underpin all aspects of the environment. As one staff member observed, in speaking of the head, 'She lives and breathes Montessori!'</p>	x	
	<p>Management structures support staff in CPD The school is enthusiastic in terms of accessing training that is available locally, and organise whole school INSET days, of which one was recently devoted to Makaton training and the next will be on mental health. The staff know that if they need any advice or demonstrations of material etc. the head is available from 7:30 am to give support.</p>	x	

Criterion	Observed evidence	Met	Not Met
	Regarding more formal training: if staff members indicate that they would like to access training the school will support them as far as possible with either study time or a financial contribution.		
7. Policies and procedures: Effective policies and procedures relating to implementing the Montessori approach and monitoring its effectiveness are in place, and available to staff and parents.	Policies and procedures relate to implementing Montessori approach The school's mission statement is prominently displayed on its website, and its statement of aims is currently being updated and revised to ensure that the aims are embedded into the nursery with processes being made explicit.	x	
	Policies and procedures are monitored and reviewed A consultation has been undertaken with the stakeholders, to which 20 parents to date have responded. All policies are marked with the version number, and they are reviewed annually unless they need to be reviewed more frequently.	x	
	Policies and procedures are available to staff and parents Everything is available on the website.	x	
8. Partnership with parents: There is an effective partnership with parents	There is a parent partnership policy; parents are welcomed in to the school and time is made for them, with the opportunity to book specific appointments if necessary. The head makes a point of meeting all the parents and children on the door every morning and is committed to making the parents feel valued. Contact is also maintained and developed through e-mails and phone calls.	x	