

The Avenues Montessori

406 Northdown Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 3PG



Inspection date

21 July 2017

Previous inspection date

4 June 2014

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

- Children play in a bright and interesting environment. Staff provide them with an exciting range of toys and resources, which they are able to independently access to make choices in their play. Children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff encourage children to develop their interest in literacy. For example, younger children use sticks to make marks in sand, while older children use resources, such as cotton buds, to practise their early writing skills.
- The management team has successfully taken action to make required improvements. For example, staff have received child protection training and are fully aware of the procedures to follow to help protect children and keep them safe.
- Staff offer children daily opportunities to play outside to practise their physical skills. For example, they ride on bicycles and climb on large play equipment, to develop their coordination and muscle strength.
- Staff have formed positive relationships with parents. For example, they keep parents fully informed about their children's progress, and the activities they engage in, to support children's learning at home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, staff miss opportunities to challenge and extend children's learning to the highest levels and build on their thinking skills.
- Staff do not constantly support children's mathematical understanding and language, in particular, the relationship between numbers and quantity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to support all staff to improve their skills and knowledge, to ensure that teaching is of the highest standard
- make the most of opportunities to develop children's interest in mathematical ideas to extend their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed staff interactions with children and spoke to staff and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures, and risk assessments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the acting manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents to take into account their views on the service they receive.
- The inspector spoke to the managers about their self-evaluation and discussed any plans they have for the nursery.

Inspector
Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Managers have reviewed and improved their safeguarding procedures. They have robust recruitment procedures to make sure staff are suitably checked before they work with children. Managers follow thorough induction procedures to help new staff, and those taking on new roles, to ensure they are supported fully. The management team regularly monitors the consistency of the quality of teaching. For example, staff have one-to-one support meetings and attend regular training events. Managers track the development and progress of individual children and groups of children to identify and address any gaps in learning. They have forged strong links with other early years professionals to help provide a continuity of care. The management team and staff have made positive changes since the previous inspection. For example, they have developed stronger links with parents to improve outcomes for all children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff make effective use of observations and assessments of children to identify their achievements and what they need to learn next. They plan a range of stimulating activities which focuses on children's interests and stage of development. For example, children have fun as they skilfully complete a puzzle on the light box. Staff support children's communication and language skills well. For instance, they introduce new vocabulary and reinforce actions with words, such as 'sprinkling' cheese onto the pizzas they are making.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff make effective use of praise. For example, they encourage children to persevere at tasks and congratulate them on their achievements. This helps to support their emotional well-being and self-esteem. Children's behaviour is appropriate to their age. Staff have clear rules and boundaries to support children to learn how to take turns and share. For instance, children offer their friends some containers so they can join in with the water play. Staff give children clear messages about the choices and practices that promote a healthy lifestyle. Children develop their independence and learn to manage small tasks, such as pouring drinks and serving themselves at mealtimes.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in relation to their starting points. They develop strong problem-solving skills and are confident in their play. For example, younger children enjoy watching cars speed down guttering tubes to see which one will win. Children learn to value and respect the differences and similarities between themselves and other people. They have good opportunities to develop an interest in their community and they enjoy looking at photograph books of their local area. Children learn the key skills they need for the next stage in their learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY413016
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1069012
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 - 4
Total number of places	77
Number of children on roll	132
Name of registered person	Townsend Montessori Nurseries Ltd
Registered person unique reference number	RP906980
Date of previous inspection	4 June 2014
Telephone number	01843221155

The Avenues Montessori originally registered in 2007 and re-registered in 2010. It is one of eight nurseries operated by Townsend Montessori Nurseries Limited. The nursery operates in Margate, Kent. It is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm, for most of the year. The provider receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. There are 23 members of staff. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status and 18 hold qualifications from level 2 to level 6.

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