

Oaklea Montessori CIC

Ogilvie Hall, Wignall Street, Lawford, MANNINGTREE, Essex, CO11 2JG



Inspection date

20 September 2017

Previous inspection date

25 February 2014

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

- Teaching is inspirational. Staff provide a rich and vibrant learning environment where children are highly stimulated. Varied and imaginative play experiences for children, especially outdoors, are delivered by staff, who have an excellent understanding of how children learn.
- Children's communication and language development are exceedingly well supported. Staff are skilful in their interactions with children and use highly effective methods of teaching. Children flourish and make excellent progress in their learning.
- All staff are highly skilled and sensitive in helping children form secure emotional attachments and provide an exceptionally strong base for children's developing independence and exploration.
- Excellent partnership working helps to promote a complementary approach to children's learning and development between the setting and home. There is an exemplary focus on fully involving parents and families in children's learning. Staff and parents eagerly talk about the children's current and emerging interests and abilities. They exchange ideas to further enhance children's progress.
- The provider and manager have extremely high expectations for all staff and children. They monitor and oversee children's development extremely well to identify and rapidly close any gaps in learning before their move to school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to build on the excellent professional development opportunities offered to staff to extend even further the excellent standards of practice already achieved.

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 spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the nursery manager.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views through verbal and written feedback provided.

Inspector

Jemma Hudson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The manager and staff have an excellent understanding of safeguarding procedures and child protection issues. Staff's ongoing suitability is constantly addressed. They receive regular appraisals and one-to-one meetings and their performance is observed. The well-qualified staff are extremely keen to enhance their continuing professional development and seek out even more effective ways to broaden and improve their practice. The provider and manager evaluate the nursery exceptionally well and continually make very effective improvements. For example, staff have pushed mark-making opportunities with children to the forefront of outdoor activities to help children make the best possible progress in this area.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Staff know precisely what to do to enrich children's learning. The highly effective teaching and superbly stimulating activities help to challenge children. There is an extremely strong focus on activities that promote investigation, exploration and experimentation with children using all of their senses indoors and outside. The quality of staff's interactions with children is consistently outstanding. They are skilled at introducing vocabulary and descriptive language. Relationships with parents are excellent. Staff work alongside parents to identify accurate targets to support their child's learning between home and the nursery.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's social and emotional development are given the highest priority. Children make very strong relationships with their key person and this gives them an excellent platform from which to thrive and grow. Children's behaviour is exceptional, and they are constantly settled, happy and highly involved. They spend as much time as they would like outside and get a lot of fresh air and exercise. Staff ensure that mealtimes are exceptionally calm and happy for the children. Children use glasses and china plates, and staff teach them to use cutlery correctly. This contributes towards children being extremely well prepared for their future learning and eventual move to school.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are exceptionally happy and confident at nursery. They welcome visitors and willingly engage them in conversation. Children are extremely independent. For example, they confidently use knives to cut fruit which they serve at snack time. Children have excellent opportunities to explore their own interests. For example, children choose to investigate what they will find under the logs in the garden and identify insects, such as centipedes. All children are motivated to learn and make excellent progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY467104
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1088193
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	15
Number of children on roll	18
Name of registered person	Oaklea Montessori Community Interest Company
Registered person unique reference number	RP528964
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2014
Telephone number	01255 880135

Oaklea Montessori CIC registered in 2013. It is one of four nurseries managed by Oaklea Montessori Community Interest Company. The nursery employs nine members of childcare staff. Of these, two hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 4, one at level 3 and two at level 2. One member of staff holds early years professional status and two hold qualified teacher status. The nursery is open Monday to Friday all year round from 8am until 5.30pm.

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