

Inspection of Bishops Waltham Montessori

Coronation Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishops Waltham, Southampton SO32 1ED

Inspection date: 10 July 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children happily separate from their parents as they enter this warm and welcoming nursery where the ethos is to promote, 'love and kindness'. They receive a warm welcome from staff who check in with parents for any information they may need to know to support the day ahead. Children independently place their belongings down before seeking out their friends. They display a strong sense of belonging and show that they feel safe and secure. For example, children spontaneously run over to staff members and cuddle into them. Staff respond with big smiles, showing genuine warmth and kindness.

Children benefit from a curriculum that is fun and stimulating. Staff identify what children need to learn next and then plan a suitable range of learning experiences. For example, children show high levels of enthusiasm as they use hammers to smash ice to free toy animals frozen inside. They hold the animals up and confidently name them, such as a, 'praying mantis'. Staff praise children's efforts. This helps to support children's self-esteem and self-confidence.

Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They are good role models and support children to resolve any minor conflicts swiftly. Children display kindness towards their friends. For instance, they pass one another blocks as they work together to build a, 'big fire station'. This also helps to develop children's social skills.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- Leaders are committed to providing the best possible care and education for all children. They lead a well-qualified team that shares their vision. Leaders are dedicated to continuous improvement and provide professional development opportunities for staff.
- Staff have established a clear curriculum, which is sequential and interesting for all children. They tailor the curriculum accordingly to cover any gaps in learning. Staff prepare a range of interesting activities. For example, children enjoy piano lessons and taking part in a sound and listening activity. However, occasionally, teaching interactions are not consistently purposeful. For instance, at times, staff do not recognise when children have become disengaged and, therefore, do not refocus their attention on learning. This does not fully support children to develop positive attitudes to learning.
- Staff swiftly identify when children need further support for their learning or development. They work in close partnership with parents and external professionals. This helps staff to develop strategies to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Leaders use additional funding appropriately to provide targeted support for children. This ensures that

all children, including those with SEND make good progress.

- Staff prioritise developing children's language and listening skills. They sing funny songs that involve children listening and exploring new language. For example, when singing a song about spiders, staff introduce the word, 'scurry', and explain it describes the movement of spiders. Staff get down to the children's level and model the pronunciation of words. Staff sensitively correct children's pronunciation by repeating the word so children can hear the difference. Books are readily available and children access them independently, reading them alongside friends. This helps to develop a love of books.
- Staff encourage children to gain an understanding of the natural world. Children help to look after a stick insect and caterpillars, and excitedly observe the life cycle of a butterfly. Staff plan activities to enhance children's learning further. For example, children chat away together as they make their own butterflies using clay. Children recall how the caterpillars turned into butterflies. This helps children to understand life cycles.
- Staff teach children how to keep themselves safe. For instance, staff remind children the correct way to carry a chair, so they do not accidentally hurt their friends. Children listen and respond well. Furthermore, children show they understand how to keep themselves safe in the sun as they talk about wearing sunhats before they go outside.
- Staff support children the importance of being healthy and the importance of being physically active. They work with families to ensure any packed lunches are healthy and nutritious. Staff provide many opportunities for children to play outside in the fresh air and walk to places such as the country market. These opportunities help to promote children's understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles.
- Staff develop strong partnerships with parents. Parents are well informed about their children's developmental progress and receive advice from staff to support their children's learning at home. Parents speak highly of the care provided by the staff and praise how well they know their children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance teaching strategies to consistently refocus children's attention on learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY305418
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10399681
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	30
Number of children on roll	52
Name of registered person	Bishops Waltham Montessori School Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP535292
Telephone number	07393 044780
Date of previous inspection	11 December 2019

Information about this early years setting

Bishops Waltham Montessori registered in 2005 and is located in Bishops Waltham, Hampshire. The nursery is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am to 3pm, and Wednesday from 8am to 4pm, during term time only. The nursery receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years. Nine members of staff work with children, seven of whom have a recognised childcare qualification between level 3 and 7.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Clare Leake

Inspection activities

- Leaders joined the inspector on a learning walk and explained their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to staff at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the staff and the children.
- Leaders and the inspector carried out a joint inspection.
- Parents shared their views of the nursery with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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