

Mill Cottage Montessori School Day Care

Wakefield Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 4HA

Inspection date	27 January 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Staff have extremely high expectations of children and challenge them continuously in their play. As a result, children rapidly gain new skills and make excellent progress in their learning.
- Children have exceptional independence skills, which are taught from being babies. As a result, children are very well prepared for their future learning in school.
- Children have very high levels of confidence and self-esteem because they are truly valued by all staff in the setting and supported to reach their potential.
- Children have formed very secure relationships with staff. This is because staff get to know them well before they start in the setting and confidently learn their routines to ensure children always feel safe and secure.
- Children behave impeccably because they understand the behaviour expected of them. In addition, staff are excellent role models and understand each child's individual needs and personalities particularly well.
- The management team demonstrates passion to continually improve. As a result, staff are supported to develop their knowledge and skills and their high quality teaching is regularly evaluated and praised.
- Parents are significantly involved in the setting and their views and opinions taken very seriously. Consequently, partnerships with parents are outstanding.

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What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the already outstanding tracking of children's progress to comprehensively measure how different groups of children perform against each other, in order to further support children's excellent development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children in the three main rooms, the art room and the outdoor area.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager of the setting.
- The inspector held discussions with the provider, manager, staff, children and parents.
- A range of documents was inspected including observations, planning and tracking of children's progress.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability, training certificates, policies, procedures and the setting's self-evaluation documents.
- The inspector sampled parent questionnaires and took into account the views of parents spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Laura Hoyland

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Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

Staff have very high expectations of children and support them to learn a multitude of skills. Children are highly motivated to learn and engage in a wide variety of activities. Children make excellent progress in their learning and development because staff know them very well and challenge them in their play. For example, children discuss the different continents of the world and the animals that live there. Staff extended this by discussing where volcanoes are located, resulting in a science experiment to support children's knowledge and understanding of the world. Children are fascinated in their learning and staff skilfully consolidate previous learning through games and songs. Babies explore a wide range of sensory materials, while staff extend their vocabulary through constantly talking to them. Parents are extremely well involved in their child's learning. Workshops are regularly held for parents to inform them of what children are learning. These have included astronomy workshops and learning about the theory of Montessori.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for school. They exude confidence and their independence skills are exceptional. Children dress themselves, wash their own snack dishes, manage their own hygiene and show a passion for learning. As a result, they are exceptionally ready for school. Children are very settled in the setting and parents speak very highly of the settling-in process. In-depth information is shared, and therefore, children's well-being needs are meticulously met. Children are developing an excellent attitude towards healthy eating. They try new foods and grow fruit in the orchard, which they eat at meal and snack times. Children water the plants daily and take care of the setting's pets. As a result, they are learning to take responsibility for small tasks. Children access a wide range of activities outdoors. They explore the nature trail and negotiate climbing apparatus. As a result, children are developing very good physical skills.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The management team show passion to provide exceptional quality care and learning for all children. They continuously search for ways to improve outcomes for children and the quality of teaching. The team monitor children's development closely and ensure children are making excellent progress. Tracking different children is in place and the management team are working to strengthen this further. The member of staff with Early Years Professional status coaches and mentors colleagues to develop their skills further. Parents' and children's views are regularly sought in order to further improve the outstanding service provided. The providers hold safer recruitment qualifications and ensure staff are robustly recruited and vetted. Safeguarding is a high priority for all staff and they clearly know the signs and symptoms of abuse and who to contact with any concerns. Partnerships with other professionals are firmly in place and staff know who to contact for any advice if children require additional support. In addition, partnerships with the local schools are also very well established to support children's move to school.

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Setting details

Unique reference number	EY317102
Local authority	Calderdale
Inspection number	856828
Type of provision	
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	106
Name of provider	Mill Cottage Montessori School Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01484 400500

Mill Cottage Montessori School Day Care was registered in 2005. It follows the educational philosophy of Montessori. The setting employs 16 members of childcare staff. Of these, 14 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with Early Years Professional status. The setting opens from Monday to Friday all year round, except for two weeks at Christmas and bank holidays. Sessions are from 8am until 6pm. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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