

Inspection of Acton Montessori Nursery And Preschool

Unit 43, Alacia Court, Palmerston Road, London, Ealing W3 8GJ

Inspection date: 15 August 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Inadequate

Behaviour and attitudes

Inadequate

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety and well-being are compromised due to the failings of the leadership and management team. Some staff have insufficient knowledge of safeguarding. There is a detailed safeguarding policy in place. However, the risks of staff taking and using their personal phone on trips to the park has not been thoroughly considered. This happens as the setting's phone does not work.

Leaders put in place a programme of educational activities, taking account of the children's interests. However, it does not help to build on children's previous learning. For example, staff do not take the opportunity to extend learning and spark curiosity. Staff are kind towards children and know what they like to play with. However, they are not enhancing learning and there is often a lack of purpose to the day. Children wander round the room. Younger children sit at a dinner table with a drink and little interaction before dinner.

Leaders and managers have failed to provide all children with the opportunity to learn and explore outside. Children do not access the outdoors every day due to issues with the garden space not being usable. When the children do go outside, they thoroughly enjoy exploring the local park. The staff team takes time to teach the children about crossing the road safely.

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

- Children's learning is interrupted by staff being unprepared and not allowing children to manage their own risk. For example, young children play in a shallow water tray and have to stop, as staff fear they will slip and get wet. Staff do not provide towels or a mat to help extend the play and to help children remain safe.
- Mealtimes are rushed and impersonal. Children sit at the table quietly eating. Without warning, staff take their cutlery, fill it with food and give it back to them. This means that children have little opportunity to develop independence, and their feelings are not always considered by the staff.
- Children's language skills are not supported. Staff are quiet and do not extend conversations with the children. Children are missing a language-rich environment.
- The setting has had a recent change in management and teaching staff. The new managers feel they are now fully aware of the failings in the setting's practice. Although they have yet to make changes, they do show a drive to improve.
- Hygiene practices are poor. Babies wash their hands with a wipe while at the park. They then all eat from the same serving dish, putting their hands fully in their mouth and back into the serving dish.

- Staff do not support children to understand the expected behaviour or routines. Children's disagreements can go unnoticed, or they are given instruction rather than support and understanding.
- Children's emotional well-being is not fully supported. For example, children arrive and are taken into the room, but staff do not realise they are there. Less confident children are left watching from a distance.
- Children's privacy and dignity is not respected during nappy changes. The placement of the changing unit means children are exposed during this intimate care routine. The positioning of the change table is next to the food service area, so hygiene practices are also compromised. This was moved during the inspection.
- Children can be seen enjoying cuddles with staff members and appreciating this one-on-one interaction. This helps children develop secure bonds with staff and helps them to feel safe.
- Staff and managers have built up good relationships with parents. They provide parents with daily feedback about children's activities and care.
- Children enjoy exploring the well-resourced play areas. Some staff use this time to extend children's vocabulary and learning. However, this is not consistent.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Staff members are able to describe what they would do if they felt a child was being abused. However, not all staff could describe the signs and symptoms of abuse or a range of other safeguarding topics, such as the 'Prevent' duty. Managers can demonstrate their safeguarding knowledge. However, they have failed to consistently monitor the knowledge and practice in the setting. Staff do not understand that pulling a young child towards them by one arm, could result in injury to the child.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
ensure children's privacy and dignity are respected during nappy changes	02/09/2022
ensure all staff have suitable safeguarding training to improve their understanding of wider contextual issues of safeguarding	02/09/2022

ensure children have access to the outdoors every day	02/09/2022
ensure staff understand how to manage children's behaviour in a way that supports children to understand what is expected of them	02/09/2022
ensure children's feelings are considered so things are done with them and not to them, and develop the opportunities to practise being independent	02/09/2022
ensure children's previous knowledge and skills are taken into account when planning the curriculum, and improve planning for children's communication and language development.	02/09/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	2555125
Local authority	Ealing
Inspection number	10237619
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 4
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	V, D's & Every Kid's Dreams Nurseries Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP533765
Telephone number	07533622275
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Acton Montessori Nursery And Preschool registered in 2019. It is located in the London Borough of Ealing. The nursery is open from 7.30am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays. It employs seven permanent members of staff. Of these, six hold appropriate early years qualifications from level 2 to level 6. The nursery offers funded early education to two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Natalie Bishop

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The manager joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a communication and language activity with a manager.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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