

Inspection of Cator Park Montessori School

Aldersmead Road, Cator Park Pavilion, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1NA

Inspection date:

25 September 2025

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Staff warmly welcome children into a nurturing and stimulating environment, where they feel extremely safe, valued and confident to explore. From the start of the day, staff encourage children to be independent. For example, children are highly confident as they self-register, find their name cards and manage their own shoes and coats.

Staff provide consistent routines and are always close by to help children develop resilience and a strong sense of security. Interactions between children are respectful. When conflict arises, for example, as children find it difficult to share books, they attempt to resolve matters verbally with minimal staff support. Staff manage children's behaviour calmly and consistently. They model positive strategies and help children to understand boundaries. This creates an extremely positive culture of mutual respect and cooperation.

The curriculum is ambitious for every child. All children show curiosity and high levels of engagement in their learning. They are confident to share their ideas, negotiate with their peers and express their needs. Activities are meaningful and rooted in children's interests, such as family traditions and real-life experiences. This gives them a strong sense of belonging and pride in their cultural identity.

Staff demonstrate exceptional expertise in observing, supporting and extending children's learning. Children are highly motivated learners, who develop important life skills and self-confidence, which prepares them exceptionally well for school.

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

- Staff sequence the curriculum seamlessly to achieve excellent outcomes for children. They create an exceptionally calm but busy learning environment that enables all children to concentrate for long periods of time, regardless of their ages and stages of development. As a result, all children show extremely positive attitudes towards their learning.
- Staff support children's physical development extremely well. For example, children show high levels of engagement and involvement during obstacle course activities. During activities such as these, children develop precise control, strong coordination and confidence, using their bodies in many different ways.
- The leaders and staff use highly effective communication methods with parents. They share clear information about children's progress. They inform parents of weekly activities and planning. This helps parents to extend learning at home and further strengthen their child's development.
- Staff promote children's communication and language development extremely

well. They introduce new vocabulary in meaningful, engaging contexts. For example, they speak about the 'Traditional Day', where children share objects from home and explore their origins on a world map. Children learn to confidently use complex words, such as 'Australasia, Antarctica'. These experiences rapidly extend children's language skills and continually enhance their confidence in speaking.

- Highly skilled staff provide targeted support to enable all children, including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to make exceptional progress from their starting points. Staff use individualised planning and timely interventions to remove any barriers to learning quickly. They help all children to thrive socially and in all areas of their learning.
- The leadership team demonstrates exceptional commitment to professional growth. Staff supervisions are reflective and purposeful. These identify the individual strengths and development goals for all staff. Staff benefit from a wide range of high-quality training, to ensure their practice consistently exceeds expectations and contributes to sustained excellence.
- Staff provide a highly stimulating learning environment, where children are consistently challenged and engaged. Staff interactions are of exceptionally high quality. For example, they use these skills to enable all children to foster a genuine love for books and stories. As a result, children demonstrate deep curiosity, concentration and strong social skills. The curriculum is ambitious, inclusive and builds on children's prior knowledge, preparing them exceptionally well for their next stage in education.
- Leaders and staff work consistently to identify areas where children require additional support. For example, they assess all children's progress to quickly identify and close any gaps in their learning. They take all opportunities to work with other professionals to help children with SEND make the best possible progress in their learning and development.
- Staff continuously encourage children's independence skills through daily routines that are carefully planned and well organised. Children confidently serve themselves at mealtimes, clear their plates and follow hygiene routines with minimal support. These daily opportunities help even the youngest children to learn, remember and apply important self-care skills on their own.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY333129
Local authority	Bromley
Inspection number	10399294
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Full day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	54
Number of children on roll	50
Name of registered person	Kindred Education (Cator Park) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP526211
Telephone number	0208 778 9893
Date of previous inspection	26 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

Cator Park Montessori School registered in 2006. The nursery is in the grounds of Cator Park, in Beckenham, in the London Borough of Bromley. The nursery is open five days a week, during term time only, from 8.30am until 5pm. There are nine members of staff, five of whom hold Montessori qualifications from level 3 to 6. The provider offers the government funded places for childcare and receives early years pupil premium funding for disadvantaged children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Claudia Castano

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- During the inspection, the manager went on a learning walk with the inspector and explained how the curriculum is implemented.
- The inspector and the manager carried out a joint observation of a communication and language activity.
- The inspector observed the interactions between staff and children and the impact this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to staff and children when appropriate.
- 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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