



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 305376

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 27/05/2004
Inspector Name Debra Elizabeth Jean Dahlstrom

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care, Out of School Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name The Little House
Setting Address The Cobbles
Lower Peover
WA16 9PZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Miss Susan Elizabeth Lake

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

The Little House Montessori Nursery is a privately owned facility. The nursery is set in a rural location in the village of Lower Peover. There are currently 28 children on roll , with no children at present in receipt of funding.

The setting is registered to provide full day care, it offers sessional care five mornings a week Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:30 and five afternoons Monday to Friday 13:30 to 16:00 term time. There is also a summer school for two weeks in August from 10:00 to 16:00. Children who are to attend both morning and afternoon sessions bring a packed lunch. The children have use of one room with toilet facilities and a small enclosed garden immediately outside, they can have use of the school field at the school which is situated across the courtyard during holiday times.

The owner who is also the person in charge of the nursery is one of six staff of whom all hold relevant childcare and or teaching qualifications. Several staff also hold Montessori Diplomas. Of the six staff, four are permanent and a further two provide cover for sickness or holiday.

How good is the Day Care?

The Little House Montessori Nursery, provides a good standard of care for children. The nursery environment is calm, warm and welcoming to children with good use of space made both indoors, and outdoors. Policies and procedures are comprehensive and are reflected in the daily practice and contribute to the smooth running of the setting. There is one change recommended to the way records are made.

Staff are vigilant about safety and have good systems in place to keep children safe and free from harm. There are high standards of hygiene implemented throughout the nursery to promote children's good health. Snacks are varied with individual dietary needs met. Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures. They are committed to valuing children as individuals and have experience in caring for children with special needs.

There is a stimulating range of activities for children which challenge their thinking and support their learning in all areas. Staff have strong secure relationships with children, who are happy and settle quickly. Behaviour is managed well as children respond readily to a quiet, consistent approach by staff.

Partnership with parents is good, they are happy with all aspects of care provided for their children, particularly the warm and caring attitude of the staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the person in charge agreed to make two changes to practice. She has put in place a system where an accurate record is made of children's arrivals and departures. This enables an accurate record to assist in any possible evacuation and enables management to confirm the staff to child ratios.

There are now details of the regulator included in the complaints procedure for parents information, enabling them to make appropriate contact should the need arise.

What is being done well?

- Children make good progress in all areas of their learning. The setting both inside, and outside in the garden, is organised so children can select from an interesting range of activities and sensory experiences. Children are confident and independent learners. They make decisions, investigate and explore their environment with sustained interest and enjoyment.
- Supervision of children is good as they are positively encouraged to be involved in health and safety matters within the nursery. From an early age children are supported so they can take responsibility for clearing away their own work space and assist in keeping the setting clean, safe and tidy.
- Staff are good role models for children. Their gentle, calm, yet consistent approach has a positive effect on children's behaviour. Children develop good social skills, respect for others and understand the consequences of their own actions. Children are kind, helpful and behave well.
- Staff meet the individual needs of children very well and are committed to ensuring children of all abilities develop at their own pace. Parents are very happy with the progress their children are making and are kept well informed with detailed developmental records shared.

What needs to be improved?

- the application records

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
14	Consider reviewing your application forms in line with your policy on equal opportunities.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.