



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 510041

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 01/12/2004
Inspector Name Angela Cole

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Garden House Nursery School (Gotherington)
Setting Address Village Hall
Gotherington
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 9ET

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Garden House Nursery School
(Gotherington)

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Garden House Nursery School (Gotherington)
Address Village Hall
Gotherington,,
Nr Cheltenham
Glos
GL52 9ET

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 Garden House Nursery School (Gotherington) is one of three nurseries under the same ownership. It was re-opened in 2001 and is sited in the village of Gotherington outside Cheltenham. The group runs from the village hall and has access to an outdoor play area. A maximum of 20 children aged from two to three years attend on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during term time. Sessions are from 09.15 until 12.15. There are currently 15 children on roll.

Five staff work in the group with three adults normally present. All have appropriate early years qualifications, including two who are Montessori trained. This a Montessori based group with membership of the Association Montessori International and the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Garden House Nursery School (Gotherington) provides good quality care for children. The leader is highly qualified and staff qualifications exceed the minimum required. The adults form a strong team and work well together. The organisation of space, staff and resources works smoothly so legal ratio of adults to children is always maintained. The premises are clean, spacious and adequately heated although the kitchen can be accessed by children. Areas for play are clearly defined and some children's work displayed on temporary screens. A wide range of high quality toys and resources is available and effectively includes images of different cultures. Documentation is accessible and kept confidential with policies that are detailed and up-to-date.

The children are safe. Staff watch them closely at all times as there is no barrier between hall and kitchen. Sufficient adults have current child protection training. Children learn good hygiene practice and are protected from infection and well cared for if ill. Most arrangements for first aid and medication are in place except for procedures for parents to sign after medication is given. Drinks and some food are always available. Dietary needs are well considered and balanced snacks are offered.

Children's care, learning and play are good. They enjoy their play, are well stimulated and challenged to progress in all areas of development. All children are fully included, for example, in cooking activities. Their requirements are well met, including those with special needs. The behaviour policy is highly appropriate and

skilful one-to-one support given to regarding children's behavioural needs. Clear guidelines about the routine are given to help children feel secure. Good behaviour is always encouraged and praised.

Families are closely consulted over their children's care and there is high regard for confidentiality. A very warm, personal welcome is given to all parents and their children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

After the last inspection, the setting agreed to ensure the child protection policy included procedures to be taken in the event of allegation against a member of staff. These are now part of the policy and so the setting complies with the local procedures to protect children. The setting also agreed to extend ways of sharing information with families. Parents are now kept better informed about the nursery activities for their children through regular conversation, letters and a large, parents' notice board.

What is being done well?

- Children are fully involved in their play. They regularly make choices and are effectively supported to play alongside, and with, others. There is a warm rapport with staff. All adults listen carefully to the children, show interest in what they do and help them to think about their play. Staff closely observe the children to plan the next steps for their development in all areas.
- Children have a good choice of resources within the range of activities provided. For example, they have a choice of physical play and from a wide collection of books, table toys, drawing materials and tools for dough play. Activities are changed each session to provide further options, including rotation of cooking and painting.
- The premises are kept secure and access is closely monitored to keep children safe. Staff are vigilant at all times, including outdoors and on regular walks. Staff are well aware of their own responsibilities in an emergency. Plans effectively identify and reduce many risks and any resting child is well protected in a quiet part of the hall.
- The detailed equal opportunities policy is shared with all families. It is fully implemented by staff so the young children's needs are all well met.
- Strong relationships are built up with parents and carers. Children are effectively looked after according to parents' wishes, for example, so that they are only released to known persons. Parents are well informed about the nursery and their children through notices, letters and frequent conversation.

What needs to be improved?

- children's access to the kitchen

- the procedure to obtain parents' signatures on records of medication given to children.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

Since 1 April 2004, Ofsted have not received any complaints about this provider.

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
4	Make the kitchen inaccessible to the children.
7	Ensure parents sign the written records of medication given to children.

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.