



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 220292

DfES Number: 516626

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/05/2003
Inspector Name Jill Hunn

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Windmill Nursery (Middleton Cheney)
Setting Address 25 Church Lane
Middleton Cheney
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX17 2NS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Venetia Tustian

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Windmill Nursery was established in 1968. It is registered to provide full day care for 41 children between the ages of two to under five years. Overnight care is not included.

The nursery is situated at Windmill Farm, in a rural setting but close to the centre of the village of Middleton Cheney. It serves the local community and surrounding villages in south Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. The premises consist of converted farm buildings surrounding a central courtyard, where the setting's pets are housed. The converted dairy is used by the pre-school children, with the two to three year old group using the opposite stable block.

There is a large grassed area for outdoor activities. In wet weather, the courtyard or barn may be used.

The Nursery is privately owned and run by a manager. There are nine members of staff, of whom six have an early years qualification. There are 142 children on roll; of these 41 children aged three years, and 22 children aged four years are funded. The nursery supports children with special educational needs. There are no children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is open each week day from 08:30 hours to 17:30 hours with the exception of bank holidays and a week at Christmas. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Northamptonshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Windmill Nursery provides satisfactory care for children.

The premises are attractive and space is organised well to meet the needs of the varying age groups of children. The excellent range of displays and examples of the children's work provides a warm and welcoming environment. A high proportion of

the staff are qualified. They are aware of potential safety hazards and supervise the children well. Further detail is required to some documentation.

An imaginative and interesting programme of activities is arranged throughout the nursery, with regular opportunities for children to play outside. The excellent variety of activities for pre-school children challenges and develops their mathematical thinking. Currently staff are not using observations and assessments of children to plan the next steps in their learning.

Staff support and encourage the children and promote their self esteem. Children from both age groups speak confidently about what they are doing. They respond to clear boundaries and guidance set by the staff and their level of behaviour is very good.

There is a good relationship with parents. Posters and notices are displayed and there is a suggestions box to obtain parent's views. Parents report positively about the quality of care of their children. There is a regular exchange of information between parents and staff; however, it does not enable parents to fully understand the extent of children's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to develop the complaints and child protection procedures, introduce key worker groups, conduct a risk assessment of the premises and develop records in respect of medication and parental consent for medical advice or treatment. This paperwork is all now in place.

It was also agreed that some low level glass inside the nursery and some outdoor equipment should be made safe, and the premises made more secure. A climbing frame has been replaced by new equipment in the garden, the glass has been made safe and the covering for the sand pit has been made more secure. Systems have been developed to improve security.

What is being done well?

- There is a wide range of imaginative and interesting activities throughout the nursery. Children in both age groups are set tasks which develop their confidence and sense of responsibility (Standard 3).
- The curriculum for pre-school children includes learning about other cultures and there are excellent activities for challenging and developing mathematical thinking (Standard 3).
- The premises are warm and welcoming with excellent displays and examples of the children's work (Standard 4).
- Staff give children clear guidance and encouragement and as a result children are very well behaved (Standard 11).

What needs to be improved?

- written procedures for outings and for the action to be taken in the event of a parent failing to collect a child or of a child being lost (Standards 6 and 14);
- the system for exchange of information between parents and staff (Standard 12);
- documentation, by recording times of arrival and departure of children and staff (Standard 14).

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
14	develop a statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child or of a child being lost	02/06/2003
14	keep a daily record of children's hours of attendance and the names of the persons who looked after them	02/06/2003

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

Std	Recommendation
3	make sure that observations are used to plan the next steps for the children's play, learning and development
6	make sure there are operational procedures for the safe conduct of any outings provided
7	clarify the written record of medicines administered to children- in respect of parent's signature to acknowledge that the medication has been given
12	develop the system for the regular exchange of information between

	parent and staff
--	------------------

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

The Day Nursery presents a welcoming, happy busy atmosphere and the children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. The staff effectively promote the children's confidence which creates a positive attitude to learning. The children are developing positive self-images and have a good awareness of similarities and differences of other cultures and beliefs.

The quality of teaching is generally good and the staff have a sound knowledge of the foundation stage. The staff ask open questions which encourages the children to think through what they are doing and extend their understanding. The development of the children's vocabulary is enhanced with the use of singing and rhymes. There is good use of counting in numerous activities which is also developed through singing and rhymes. Children are encouraged to develop their investigation and experimentation skills. However, most activities are very adult-directed and staff rely heavily on worksheets, some of which are not appropriate to the age and development of the children.

The quality of leadership and management is generally good. There is a good induction system for new staff and regular appraisals. The staff meet on a monthly basis and all staff contribute to the planning.

Partnership with parents is generally good. The nursery has put up a larger notice board to provide information to parents and there is a suggestions box available for their comments. Children are encouraged to take books home to read with their parents and there is a notebook where staff and parents can write comments about the book or what interested the child. However, there is no system for giving parents information about their children's progress towards the early learning goals.

What is being done well?

- Development of a sense of community and understanding of other cultures and beliefs.
- Development of language for communicating and thinking.
- Good use of rhymes and singing to enhance language and maths.
- Development of children's understanding of mathematical concepts.
- Development of children's exploring and investigating skills.
- Good use of outdoor space and equipment

What needs to be improved?

- use of observation and assessment of children to inform planning;

- develop system for evaluation of activities to inform planning;
- ensure older more able children have the opportunity to complete and perform simple functions on working technology;
- more regular system of exchange of information with regard to children's progress towards the early learning goals;
- ensure that activities provided are more practical and suitable for the age and stage of the children's development.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has moved the book corner so books are now easily accessible to the children. Children are encouraged to take books home to read with their parents. Staff have undertaken training in observation and assessment although this has not yet been fully developed within the nursery.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children's confidence and self-esteem is promoted effectively and they have a positive attitude to learning. The children's behaviour is good which enables them to operate autonomously and persist with chosen activities. They are developing positive self-images. However, children are given insufficient opportunities to develop their self-control and independence.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's vocabulary is enhanced through the introduction and development of new vocabulary relating to topics. Their confidence in talking with adults shows a good development of communication skills. They are also developing an interest in books through taking books home and listening to stories during each session. Some of the worksheets used are not appropriate to the age and development of children and the children are not currently benefiting from more practical activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children enjoy a wide range of practical activities to develop their counting abilities. There is very good use of number rhymes to develop children's early calculating skills. Children are developing a very good awareness of shape and measure with a variety of construction activities and use of shape in mathematical activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have good opportunities through imaginative activities to explore and investigate growing things. They are encouraged to talk about significant events in their lives and are developing an awareness of culture and beliefs of others through celebration of events such as Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas and Easter. However, older more able children do not have opportunity to complete and perform simple functions on working technology.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children move confidently within the nursery and have a good sense of space. There is a good variety of equipment in the outside play area to enable children to learn to move in a range of ways which children have access to twice a day. However, they are not supported to use tools and materials appropriately to develop their fine motor skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

There is a good variety of craft activities to develop children's understanding of the topics as well as to develop their artistic skills. However, the majority of activities are very adult directed and do not enable children to develop their own creative skills or extend their own ideas.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- 1. Develop a system of observation and assessment of children and evaluation of activities. Ensure planning takes into account the varying developmental needs of individual children.
- 2. Ensure there is a system of exchange of information with parents with regard to children's progress towards the early learning goals.
- 3. Ensure that activities provided are more practical and suitable for the age and stage of the children's development

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

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.