



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127682

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 09/02/2005
Inspector Name Susan Jennifer Scott

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Childrens House Montessori
Setting Address Birling Village Hall, Snodland Road
Birling
West Malling
Kent
ME19 5JG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Candida Rose Balfour

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 Children's House Montessori Nursery meets in shared accommodation in an old Victorian village school hall in the village of Birling close to West Malling, Kent. The nursery caters for children from the local area and the surrounding rural community.

It is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09.30 to 12.30 during school term time.

It is registered to take 18 children from two and a half to five years at each session. There are currently 18 children on roll. Of these, twelve are in receipt of nursery education funding. There are currently no funded children who have been identified with special educational needs and none who speak English as an additional language.

The owner/principal works with three members of staff. The principal and one member of staff hold recognised Montessori qualifications and one member of staff is working towards an appropriate qualification in Childcare and Education. The nursery receives support from an early years teacher through the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. The teaching in the nursery is strongly influenced by Montessori methods.

How good is the Day Care?

Children's House Montessori provide good quality care for children.

Children arrive happily, settle well and parents are welcome to stay. The daily organisation and staff deployment is good. Most of the required records are in place but do not all guarantee confidentiality or ensure that copies are available if needed. The staff are aware of health and safety procedures. Staff do not provide a sufficient number of qualifications although ratios are maintained; one holds a current first aid certificate.

Systems for the safe arrival and departure of children are adequate and staff are vigilant about the safety of children, using risk assessments to identify hazards. Hygiene is satisfactory and children access the toilets and wash their hands independently. Staff are confident in their ability to provide a service for children with special needs although they have limited resources to support children with English as an additional language. Staff record information on individual needs and use this

to inform their practice. Staff have access to information and procedures about child protection to follow in the event of a concern or allegation.

The key workers are aware of the progress of individual children who are confident and behave well. Staff plan and organise activities and resources effectively to enable children to make good progress in their learning. Children choose and select resources from an interesting and varied selection. Resources are organised well and promote independence and activities stimulate the children. Opportunities for children to develop their independence and self-help skills are encouraged by the organisation of snack times which also promote healthy eating.

Partnership with parents is good: they are welcome to attend sessions and staff inform them of their children's progress regularly. Parents have frequent opportunities to share information verbally with staff and can attend an annual open day.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last transitional inspection the Pre-School were required to ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitably qualified and/or experienced to work with children.

There are no staff other than the supervisor and the deputy member who hold qualifications in Montessori teaching. One staff member has some NVQ 3 credits but to withdraw from a training course. It is therefore a recommendation that this issue is addressed by implementing an action plan on staff training.

What is being done well?

- Children are absorbed in their learning and make good progress. There is a good variety of resources and activities available to the children which are well organised and stimulating.
- Children enjoy learning French. This session is popular, informative, and effectively builds confidence through the use of good teaching methods.
- Children behave very well: they are polite and considerate towards each other and play co-operatively together. Staff are good role models and treat children with respect, kindness and consideration.

What needs to be improved?

- the number of qualified and trained staff available;
- the records of medication and existing injuries so that these are completed and retained;
- the resources reflecting varied languages;
- confidentiality on accident and medication 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
2	Develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met
7	Keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children
7	Record any existing injuries
9	Provide a range of resources that promote recognition of children's home language
12	Ensure information recording accidents and injuries is confidential

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.