



The Meriton Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276808
Inspection date	19 July 2005
Inspector	Christine Mary Burrridge
Setting Address	The Meriton School, Meriton Street, Bristol, BS2 0SZ
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Registered person	The Meriton Committee
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Full day care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Meriton Nursery opened from its current premises in 2001. The nursery unit is an integral part of a school enabling young mothers to continue their education. It is situated in St. Phillips, Bristol. A maximum of 20 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery opens each week day from 08.30 to 16.30 during school term time. It operates morning and afternoon sessions. There are currently 56 children from 0 to 3 years on roll. Children come from a wide catchment area, as the nursery also serves local authorities surrounding Bristol.

The nursery employs seven staff. Five of the staff including the manager hold an

appropriate early years qualification. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

The nursery is accredited under the Bristol Standard Quality Assurance Scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is actively promoted. They enjoy a varied range of physical activities which contributes to their well-being. They practise skills and develop control and balance as they climb, use the slide and push toys around. They excitedly clap and join in action songs, for example, turning their heads from side to side as staff sing 'three little men'. Mobile babies have freedom to roll and crawl as their physical development is supported. Staff create a safe enclosed area with plenty of activities to attract babies attention, for example low mirrors. This encourages them to move and explore.

Children are cared for in warm, clean premises where staff generally take appropriate measures to reduce the risk of infection. For example, staff actively discourage the wearing of shoes in areas where babies crawl and good nappy changing procedures are followed. Children mostly follow appropriate hygiene practices and they begin to learn to take care of themselves. For example, they attempt to put on hats and shoes and they help rub sun cream on their arms. They enjoy helping to wipe the tables, they wash their hands after messy play, and after they use the toilet, but they do not consistently wash their hands before eating.

Children are introduced to fresh food as the nursery participate in a healthy eating scheme. They benefit from a healthy diet as they enjoy a wide variety of snacks that include fresh fruit and regular drinks. Parents choose their children's lunch from a menu that offers some healthy options. Children are appropriately cared for if they become unwell and their individual medical needs are met. Medication records are kept and although parents are informed when medicine has been given they are not currently asked to acknowledge the entry.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where staff effectively use risk assessment to identify and minimise risk. This enables older children to move confidently and independently around the play room and the garden. Children feel secure as they are reassured and comforted by staff who respond quickly if they become distressed, for instance after a fall. Children learn about safety as staff are good at encouraging and supporting young children to take risks such as climbing. Staff give gentle reminders so that children begin to understand why they keep their shoes on during outside play and that tidying up helps prevent them tripping over

toys.

Children use good quality toys and equipment that is age appropriate, clean and well maintained. They make choices and independently explore different activities that are set up around the room. Some toys are appropriately labelled and stored at child height, however, independence is not always encouraged as children tend to ask staff to get out favourite toys rather than help themselves.

Children are protected and their welfare is safeguarded as staff understand their responsibilities and they know the child protection and the health and safety procedures. For example, staff work with parents to maintain records of accidents and existing injuries to children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy time spent in the nursery as staff greet them as they arrive and help them settle. They are well supported by staff who make learning fun through lots of practical play experiences. Babies and young children make good relationships with staff and they enjoy each others company. They benefit from the routines which provide security and help develop social skills for instance sitting together at snack time and handing out the biscuits.

Children participate in a wide range of planned activities. Resources are generally used well to increase children's skills such as completing puzzles, construction and making pictures in sand. Children explore and experiment with many different materials and textures, for example, paint, soap flakes, play dough and water. Children are introduced to nature and show interest when they look at tadpoles and worms. They spend time watering the herb pots which helps them learn to be caring and responsible.

Babies develop early communication skills as they gurgle and smile in response to staff. They react excitedly to visual stimulation such as looking at moving glitter and seeing themselves in a mirror. Babies sometimes explore natural materials from the treasure boxes. Older children develop listening skills and they enthusiastically use musical instruments and join in action songs. They show an interest in books, turn the pages and look at the pictures as staff read. Children learn to concentrate as staff actively involve them in 'story sacs' to keep their attention.

Children make progress as staff understand how children develop. Staff are beginning to use the Birth to three matters framework in their planning but they do not always use their observations effectively to help individual children progress to the next stage of their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their emotional development is nurtured through praise and

encouragement. Children develop self-esteem as their work is admired and on show. They enjoy looking at pictures of themselves which are displayed around the room at child height. Babies are secure and they are nurtured by staff who give them plenty of physical contact and individual attention as they spend time talking and playing with them and following their routines. Young children begin to make sense of the wider world. They look at books, see pictures and posters around the nursery, and play with many toys that promote diversity.

Children behave well as staff set clear boundaries for behaviour. Children benefit from good role models as staff treat them with respect and praise good behaviour. This helps children learn to share, take turns and respond appropriately when staff ask for help, for example to tidy up the toys. Staff provide support and guidance as children begin to learn self-control when they practice new skills. Staff anticipate children's frustration and they take positive measures to prevent tantrums. For instance they give simple instructions so that a child learns to steer a car when it becomes stuck.

Babies and young children benefit and feel secure due to the relationship staff build with parents. Staff make sure they are friendly and welcoming and that parents are well informed through notices and news letters. Children's individual needs are identified during a formal settling-in programme. This helps them make a smooth transition into the nursery as staff get to know each child well. Parents use the nursery flexibly and they are free to visit their children at any time during the day. They take responsibility for their own children at lunch time. They access daily records such as sleep charts and talk to staff so that information on children needs is up-dated regularly.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's development is supported by staff who are suitable and mostly qualified. The high ratio of staff ensures that children have plenty of individual attention. Staff work well together, sharing duties so that the nursery day runs smoothly for the benefit of the children. They make sure that children are cared for in a warm safe environment that is attractive and welcoming. This is achieved by setting out activities before children arrive, and decorating the room so that it is bright and colourful and visually stimulating to young children.

The policies and procedures are generally effective in promoting children's health, safety and achievement, but some records are not consistently maintained, for example, the record of visitors and parental signatures on medication records. The setting has not informed Ofsted of the extension to the nursery. However, the addition of the conservatory has a positive impact on children's development as it provides additional space for creative play. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- further develop staffs knowledge and understanding of how to use observations to plan for individual children's progress such as through use of Birth to three matters framework
- ensure that Ofsted is notified of significant changes

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk