



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 116731

DfES Number: 512562

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 15/03/2004 |
| Inspector Name | Ruth George |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Sessional Day Care |
| Setting Name | Wise Owl Montessori Ltd |
| Setting Address | United Reformed Church Cores End Road Bourne End Buckinghamshire SL8 5HZ |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | Wise Owl Montessori Ltd. |
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

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| Name | Wise Owl Montessori Ltd. |
| Address | 55 Clapton Approach Wooburn Green High Wycombe Buckinghamshire HP10 0DW |

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

Wise Owl Montessori Nursery School opened in 1994. It operates from two halls in the United Reformed Church on the outskirts of Bourne End and has access to an enclosed secure garden. It serves the local area.

There are currently 21 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 11 funded 3 year olds and 3 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently has no children attending with special needs and one child who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 12:00.

Five full/part-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The nursery follows the Montessori method of teaching.

How good is the Day Care?

Wise Owl Montessori Nursery School provides good quality care for children. The atmosphere is welcoming, enhanced by the staff's friendly and welcoming manner. The nursery is well organised to ensure the children get the full benefit from the activities and resources available. The children are grouped in small numbers and often benefit from one to one support at activities. There is a range of Montessori resources alongside other learning materials. Most documentation is in place, however, not all records are available on the premises and some are not up to date.

Staff have a good awareness of safety, they carry out risk assessments daily. The outdoor area has a pond that has not been made safe; staff supervise children closely in this area. The staff promote good hygiene with children and hygiene procedures are in place. There is no consent from parents for emergency treatment. Children enjoy snack time> It is a sociable occasion and they eat a range of healthy

snacks. Staff have an awareness of child protection procedures.

Children come into nursery happily and separate from carers. Children are settled and feel secure in their surroundings. Staff are interested and listen to what children say. Children freely access resources from low-level shelving. They are developing an understanding of the wider world. Resources reflect positive images; they have access to a good range of books to support their understanding of their own and others cultures and beliefs. Children are very well behaved. Staff are good role models, in response, children are polite, they share and take turns.

Staff have very good relationships with parents. Parents are very happy with the care provided, they value the regular information shared verbally and the activities staff share for children to practise at home. Staff share children's achievements in a termly report and parents evening annually.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staff are deployed effectively to maintain a safe and stimulating environment for the children. The nursery is well organised to ensure the children get the full benefit from the activities and resources available. The children are grouped in small numbers and they often benefit from one to one support at activities.
- Staff plan a range of interesting activities. They use a range of Montessori resources alongside other learning materials to promote children's learning and development.
- Children enjoy snack time; staff make good use of this time as a learning opportunity. Children learn about India as part of their topic and experience eating naan bread and poppadom's they dip in korma sauce and chutney.
- Staff are good role models and praise children's achievements. In response children are polite, share and take turns. Children are very well behaved,
- Parent are very happy with the care and education provided. Staff regularly share information verbally about what the children do. Additionally there is a termly report and a parents evening annually. Staff provide activities for children to practise at home; this enables parents to be involved in the children's learning at home.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, develop a more detailed record of registration, seek consent for emergency treatment and for local outings
- documentation, review policies and procedures and make easily accessible for parents

- all records to be readily accessible on the premises
- outdoor area, to ensure the pond is made safe.

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 |
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| 4 | Ensure that children do not have access to the premises garden area except with direct staff supervision until the pond has been made safe. |
| 7 | Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. |
| 14 | Update and review policies and procedures, make easily accessible for parents and ensure all records are readily accessible on the premises. |

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Wise Owl Montessori Nursery School is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. They are building good relationships with their peers and the staff. Children are learning to be independent and to look after themselves. They are good communicators and chat confidently to each other and the staff. Children count confidently and use calculation during practical activities. They explore colour and texture through a range of media and materials. They explore, investigate and ask questions.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff plan an exciting curriculum for the children, including Montessori and non-Montessori activities. Children are interested in the activities and enjoy taking part. Staff challenge children appropriately, extending learning at almost every opportunity. Challenges set for children are very good; staff use the assessment of children's learning to ensure they challenge children appropriately in one to one activities. Staff are exemplary role models and the management of children's behaviour is very good.

The leadership and management is very good. The manager is effective in developing a committed staff team who have a collaborative approach in all aspects of their work. The management evaluates practice with the staff on a daily basis and evaluations are recorded. Planning meetings are held every half term and the evaluations are used to inform future planning.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are very happy with the nursery education provided. They like the one to one activities and the regular information shared. Staff share nursery activities with parents and send home activities for parents to practise with their children, enabling parents to continue learning activities at home. Information is shared verbally about what the children do. There is a termly report and a parents evening annually.

What is being done well?

- Children are learning a sense of their place in the nursery school, community and wider world. They learn about Italy, India and that a friend from nursery is going on holiday to Ireland.
- Good use of Montessori activities introduces children to letters and the sounds. Children have the opportunity to work on a one to one with staff, recognising letters and learning their sounds. Staff use letters that are textured so children can feel the shape of the letters to aid writing skills.
- Children count and recognise corresponding numerals, some up to ten and beyond. They use calculation and learn about shape, space and measure during Montessori and practical activities.

- Children use their imagination in a number of activities, craft and role-play. In the role-play shop a child tells another child you need a ticket to buy things, another says they are waiting for a customer.
- Staff plan an exciting curriculum for children. Children are interested in the activities and enjoy taking part. Challenges set for children are very good; staff use the assessment records to ensure they challenge children appropriately, extending learning at almost every activity.
- Children come into nursery and separate from carers happily, they are gaining independence. Children go to activities around the room and make choices from resources and activities on offer. Children are building good relationships with their peers and the staff.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to use their emergent writing skills alongside everyday activities
- planning to include physical development (gross-motor skills) daily.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The last inspection took place in 1999. In order to improve the quality and standards of the educational provision, the setting was set the following key issues for action:

1. Plan to extend children's problem solving skills through practical activities.
2. Extend the range of recyclable resources provided, on a daily basis, to enhance children's independent creative activities.

Improvement since the last inspection is very good. Children have opportunities throughout the nursery session to problem solve with both Montessori and non-Montessori resources. Children investigate and explore, they ask questions and resolve problems. They access a range of media and materials and use their imagination to create collages and to build and design.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are building good relationships with their peers and the staff, they come into nursery happily. Children are learning a sense of belonging and are discovering the local community and the wider world. Children play imaginatively in the shop and discuss what they have brought. Children are very well behaved they share and take turns. They are becoming independent, partake in Montessori activities, sweep rubbish into a circle marked on the floor and use a dustpan and brush to collect it.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children chat confidently to each other and the staff. Montessori activities introduce children to letters and the sounds. They are learning that print carries meaning, most children can recognise their names. Some label their own work and label food for the display - naan bread. Some opportunities are missed for children to use writing for a purpose alongside their play. Children enjoy group story time and enjoy looking at books together, turning pages and talking about the pictures.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently to five, some count to ten and beyond. Staff use counting opportunities throughout the nursery to develop counting skills and recognition of numerals. Children use calculation during practical activities. They use play dough and work out how to divide one lump between five. They learn about shape, space and measure during Montessori and practical activities. They pour water from one container to another, use pasta describing the length and shape and make comparisons.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Staff plan interesting activities, which enable children to explore, investigate and ask questions. A group of children experiment with dry pasta; they discuss shape, size, and look at how it changes when placed in warm water. They have opportunities to design and build; they use construction bricks and use boxes for junk modelling. A child designing with straws says, 'I want to make a helicopter'. Children use programmable toys in practical activities and to support more structured learning.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children move around the large hall with control, climb up and over and crawl through the tunnel. Physical development (gross motor skills) is not planned for daily. Children show awareness of space; at register they are careful to sit between the train tracks so they do not break it. They learn about keeping healthy and bodily awareness. Children use items from the Montessori practical life shelves to develop muscles in the hand, hand-eye co-ordination and concentration.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children explore colour and texture. A child experiments with mixing colours at the easel; yellow and blue makes green. They use a variety of materials for collage and junk modelling. Children experience a range of music; they listen to Indian music. They enjoy singing and have opportunities to play instruments. Children use their imagination in a number of activities, craft and role-play. A child serving pasta says, 'don't touch the plate it is very hot, at my house mummy say's blow my pasta'.

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

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- develop opportunities for emergent writing alongside play and plan physical activities (gross-motor skills) daily.

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.