



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT**

URN 127146

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date 15/03/2004  
Inspector Name Virginia Cooper

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Discoveries Montessori Nursery School  
Setting Address Brenchley Scout Headquarters  
Brenchley Road, Brenchley  
Tonbridge  
Kent  
TN12 7NX

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name Mrs Sandra Elizabeth Fisher

## 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

Discoveries Montessori Nursery School opened in 1999.

The environment has been especially prepared to teach children using a wide range of Montessori materials and methods. Each week the children are visited by Music and French teachers.

It operates from one large room in a scout hut located within the parish playing fields of Brenchley in Kent. It serves local children from Pembury, Marden, Brenchley, Horsmonden and Paddock Wood.

There are currently 20 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes seven funded three-year-olds and two funded four-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting is not currently supporting any children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 15:00. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and 09:00 until midday Tuesdays and Fridays.

Four staff work with children. Three hold an early years qualification to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting has not recently received support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Discoveries Montessori Nursery School provides good quality care for the children.

The organisation of the nursery is very good and the operational plan works well in practice. Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and work very well as a team.

The staff are safety conscious and all safety equipment is in place. The staff know all the children very well and use this knowledge effectively to help children undertake activities. The children are confident and very sociable; they are settled and obviously enjoy themselves at the group. The children have a good relationship with

staff and regularly approach them and chat with them. They are keen to share their news and achievements with them.

The children are taught using Montessori methods. There is an excellent variety of Montessori equipment available and children choose and use this independently. They are becoming independent thinkers and learners with lots of encouragement from the staff. Children enjoy the activities provided where they receive adult support when appropriate but are also allowed to investigate and experiment on their own. Group activities are particularly well managed.

The partnership with parents is good. They are provided with well presented information about the nursery and their children's progress. Staff communication with parents is excellent they write a detailed entry every day in a contact book and parents may use this to keep the nursery informed also. Verbal communication is good between staff and parents.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

The sand pit has a fixed cover.

The nappy changing facilities have been improved.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff are safety conscious and all safety equipment is in place.
- Staff give children lots of attention and encourage them to explore and investigate becoming independent thinkers and learners.
- Children are provided with interesting activities and they are engrossed in their play.
- Staff work well as a team.
- Staff write a detailed entry each day in a contact book for parents about their child's day and progress.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

Staff are skilled encouraging children to work collaboratively; they ensure that all children are included in group activities and remain interested even if it is not their turn.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the written permission supplied by parents to enable staff to access emergency medical advice and treatment
- the records of the children's details require some minor adjustments
- the records to evidence that regular risk assessment procedures are carried out.

**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
6	Provide evidence at inspections that regular safety checks are carried out.
12	Obtain written parental permission to access emergency medical advice and treatment.
14	Make a few minor adjustments to the children's record sheets.

## **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.*