



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 156084

DfES Number: 544063

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/02/2004  
Inspector Name Linda Patricia Coccia

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Alphabets Day Nursery  
Setting Address 15 York Avenue  
Walderslade  
Chatham  
Kent  
ME5 9EP

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Miss Sally-Ann Baker

## 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

Alphabets Day Nursery opened in 2001. It operates from three rooms in a house in Walderslade. The nursery serves the local area.

There are currently 45 children aged up to 5 years on roll. This includes 13 funded 3-year-olds and 1 funded 4-year-old. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports no children with special needs and 1 child who speaks English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week, all year round. Sessions are from 07.30 to 18.00.

There are 10 staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. There are 3 staff who are currently working towards an additional recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

Alphabets Day Nursery provides good quality care for children. The staff have very good relationships with the children and know them well.

The day care is well organised. The operational plan is well written and made available to parents. The group have effective procedures for the recruitment and vetting of staff. All staff are qualified in paediatric first aid. The attendance record is well maintained. The premises, toys and equipment are clean and safe.

The children are safe and well cared for. The premises are secure. Daily risk assessments are carried out and appropriate safety equipment is in place. Children practise emergency evacuation procedures. The group's accident and medication records are well maintained and are kept confidentially. Children are provided with drinks and snacks which are healthy and nutritious, however they could have more choice in what they eat. The group has child protection procedures which are in

accordance with their local authority guidelines. Children with special needs are well supported by staff and other health professionals.

The group provides a very good selection of toys and activities which help children develop in all areas of learning. Children are able to make choices about the toys they play with and they are supported by staff who encourage children's imagination. All children have access to all toys. There are plenty of positive images of equality of opportunity for race and culture displayed, however the group could provide more images of disability and gender. Staff praise and encourage good behaviour and children are well behaved and co-operative.

The group has plenty of evidence of positive feedback from parents. Parents are given lots of written information about how the group functions and have regular meetings with staff to discuss their child's development. Records are readily available for inspection.

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

Not applicable.

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

- The staff have very good relationships with the children. They enjoy their company and know them well. They spend a lot of time talking and playing with children and helping them to learn. The children are very happy and settled.
- The group has an extensive selection of good quality toys and equipment. They use these to plan stimulating and exciting activities to promote children's development. Children have learnt about different cultural festivals during the past year. Children are able to respect each others differences.
- The premises are safe and secure for children. Appropriate safety equipment such as socket covers and safety gates are used. The children practise evacuation procedures to enable them to leave the premises safely in an emergency.
- The staff use positive and consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour. Strategies are planned to ensure individual children's needs are met. Reward stickers are sometimes used. The children are well behaved and respectful and play well together.
- The outdoor play space is well used and is kept safe. The nursery has artificial grass in place so that children can play outside in all weathers. The children get plenty of fresh air.

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

- the privacy in the main toilet area
- the images reflecting gender and disability.

**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
4	Ensure children's privacy when using the toilet.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Alphabets Day Nursery provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have an excellent relationship with the children. They understand how children learn and enable them to learn and develop skills in all the six areas of learning. Staff consistently use open-ended questions to support and extend the children's skills in play and language. There is a very good range of resources and activities that staff organise to ensure children's progress along the stepping-stones. Staff record detailed observations of children's individual progress and achievements. They use these to plan future topics and activities effectively. Staff are respectful to the children and encourage good and appropriate behaviour. In turn, children respond well to adult guidance. The nursery has experience of working with children with special needs. There are effective procedures in place to support them.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. Staff are well supported in the care and education they provide for young children. The owner and supervisors have worked hard to develop a strong team. They are committed to providing opportunities for staff's development and training. They meet regularly to evaluate and review the effectiveness of the nursery.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. This enable parents to make a positive contribution to the children's progress towards the early learning goals. Parents are well informed about the foundation stage and the nursery activities. They have regular opportunities to discuss their children's progress with staff and are welcomed into the group.

### What is being done well?

- Staff provide interesting activities that excite and motivate children to learn through their play.
- Staff use open-ended questions effectively, supporting and extending children's learning.
- Staff encourage children to communicate effectively with their peers and with adults. Relationships between adults and children are very good.
- Staff have a very good knowledge and understanding of the foundation stage and how children learn. Children are making very good progress in all six areas of learning.
- Leadership and Management is very good. Staff are well supported in the care and education they provide for the children.

<b>What needs to be improved?</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● the opportunities for children to increase their personal independence.</li></ul> |
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<b>What has improved since the last inspection?</b>
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Not applicable.
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## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident learners. Their behaviour is very good. They respond well to adult guidance. Children are able to select resources for themselves. There are some missed opportunities for children to have more choice at snack/refreshment times.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers and communicators. They are confident and competent mark-makers. Children are able to use books appropriately. They can describe how they are feeling animatedly and using correct words.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can count well. They recognise shapes and numbers in everyday situations. Children are beginning to solve simple mathematical problems. There are some missed opportunities for children to extend their learning about weight and quantity.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to use technology appropriately. They have a good sense of time and place. Children are developing designing and making skills well. Children enjoy exploring and experimenting. There are some missed opportunities for children to access positive images of people with disabilities.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to move around and use the available space appropriately. They show good co-ordination. Children are able to use a wide range of large and small equipment. Children show a good awareness of others around them. There are some missed opportunities for children to learn more about their bodies and what is healthy.

### CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to create and explore colours and designs using a variety of resources. They can use their imagination when telling stories and creating pictures and models. More able children can express themselves well. Children know and recognise several different colours. There is a missed opportunity for children to use the available musical instruments.

**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:*

- Point for consideration:
- Provide further opportunities for children to increase their personal independence.

*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.*