



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100599

DfES Number: 520717

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 06/07/2004
Inspector Name Margaret Jean Moore

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Konstam Nursery Centre
Setting Address 75 Chester Road
London
N19 5DH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Camden Council

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Camden Council
Address Camden Local Education Authority
Crowndale Centre
218-220 Eversholt St
London
NW1 1BD

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

Konstam Nursery Centre is situated in the South Highgate area. It operates from two storey building comprising five group rooms, a community room with additional facilities including soft play room, office, toilets, kitchen and a large enclosed outdoor area. The centre serves local families and nearby primary schools. Children attending reflect the diverse cultures of the community.

There are 69 children on roll aged 0 to 5 years of whom there are 48 funded 3 and 4 year olds. Also, 24 on roll for the wrap-around after-school and holiday play scheme places for children aged 3 to 8 years. Children generally attend full -time on a short / long day basis.

Five children have special needs and for 25 of those attending, English is an additional language.

The nursery centre is open five days a week all year round except for the last two weeks in August. Opening times are 08.00 hrs to 18.00 hrs, with a core day from 09.00hrs to 15.00hrs. Nursery class children attend term-time only with wrap-around care provided through early day and after school service.

An after school group operates during term-time from 15.00hrs to 18.00hrs and a holiday play scheme takes place during the first four weeks of the summer holidays between 08.00hrs and 18.00hrs. Places are allocated to children who attend the centre's nursery classes and local school.

18 staff work directly with the children, all have a relevant childcare qualification including two with qualified teacher status, or are in the process of completing an NVQ in Childcare and Education.

How good is the Day Care?

Konstam Nursery Centre provides a good standard of care.

The nursery is well organised with a committed staff team that is well deployed to

meet the care and educational needs of the children. The premises are secure and welcoming, the group rooms have structured activities that are planned to meet individual needs and promote the children's learning and development.

Arrangements for food and drink are good, the kitchen is hygienic with suitable storage; information about children's cultural/medical dietary needs is recorded and placed where staff can refer to them; children have access to drinks.

Stimulating and challenging activities are set out in the rooms that are suitable for the age range and ability of the children. Profiles are kept on each child that is shared regularly with parents, the information is used to plan activities to support the children's learning and development. The facilities for under 2's has been well designed. Thought has been given to provide natural materials in a sensory environment that is bright and stimulating.

There is access to an outdoor area with sufficient and appropriate equipment that the children used confidently and with enjoyment, however, there were concerns identified in the outside play area with the uneven surface, the crumbling soft landing and the fire escape is rusty in places, the paint is peeling and could be a hazard to young children.

The children are well behaved, staff are attentive and praise consistently. There is very good support for children with special needs and the staff are aware of their responsibility regarding child protection issues.

The partnership with parents is very good; the parents are greeted as they arrive. Opportunities are provided for parents to attend workshops, there is an active parents forum in place and there is a positive friendly approach by staff to work in partnership with parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Actions were set at the last inspection which included the refurbishment of group rooms and the floor covering in one of the group rooms to be made safe. The group rooms have now been decorated and the floor covering has been replaced.

What is being done well?

- The nursery is well managed with a committed team of staff, that are organised to offer a stimulating environment for the care and learning of children.
- The provision for children with special needs is well managed, with good support from Camden's Intervention Team.
- Curriculum planning is well-organised, with detailed profiles written on each child. Children are provided with a wide range of play opportunities relating to their learning and developmental needs.
- Behaviour is managed with staff using positive methods to engage children's

attention and rewarded them with frequent praise.

- There are strong links with parents, written Parents Handbook gives parents and careers information on all aspects of the service.

What needs to be improved?

- The improvement of the outside play area, which includes the uneven surface, soft landing and the fire escape.

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	conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks to the outside play area, soft landing and the fire escape.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Konstam Nursery Centre provides children with very good care in a warm, caring and stimulating environment. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in knowledge and understanding of the world, creative development, personal, social and emotional development, communication language and literacy, mathematics and physical development. There are good systems in place to identify and meet the needs of children with special needs and English as an additional language.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a good understanding of the early learning goals. They plan and provide a well organised, stimulating environment with a range of interesting and well presented play opportunities. Long and short term plans are used well to support children's learning. Staff interact well with children, they encourage language development by continually talking to the children and good use of questions. Staff manage children's behaviour very well, they are good role models and praise children's achievements. Children are able to make choices about the activities they do and whether they play in side or outside. The assessment of children's development and progress is very good, and planning ensures all children are included and those needing more support receive it.

Leadership and management is very good. Good systems are in place to induct and support staff through: supervision; staff meetings and training. Emphasis is put on staff working as a team. Clear and comprehensive written policies and procedures are in place.

Partnership with parents is very good and has a positive effect on children's learning. Parents are welcomed into the nursery, and encouraged to attend workshops and parents groups. They are informed regularly about their child's progress and the activities that are being provided.

What is being done well?

- Partnership with parents and carers is strong and has a positive effect on children's learning. Parents are welcomed into the nursery and valued, they are encouraged to participate in workshops, parents meetings and the nursery routine. Opportunities are provided for parents to experience the activities provided for their children during open mornings/evenings. Staff are friendly, approachable and committed to building good relationships with parents. Information is shared informally, through daily discussion, attractive and interesting displays, photographs and more formally at termly reviews.
- The quality of teaching is very good, and is facilitated by good management. The well planned and stimulating environment encourages children to explore, experiment and investigate their environment and extend their play. Staff interact well with children.

- Children's behaviour is managed well, taking into account individual needs. Children's positive achievements are praised and clear boundaries are set.
- The physical environment is well organised and used imaginatively, encouraging children's independence and enabling them to make choices about what they do and where they play.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to label their own work

What has improved since the last inspection?

Good progress has been made since the last inspection, good efforts have been made to establish a stable staff team and individual strengths and weaknesses are identified and valued.

Improvements have been made to children's records of achievements, and the organisation of small groups to ensure the needs of children who work at a faster pace are met. Everyday opportunities are provided for children to develop understanding of maths, through number rhymes and simple addition and subtraction activities.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are keen and motivated to learn. They concentrate well and become involved in activities. They behave well, and are taught to play co operatively together, learn to take turns and share. Children's independence is encouraged, through practical experiences such as helping at meal times and the organisation of the day to encourage free choice. Children gain a strong sense of community through celebrating different festivals, links with local schools and the ethos of the nursery.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident when speaking in familiar groups and are able to express their thoughts and feelings. Children have good opportunities to write for a variety of purpose. They understand that print carries meaning and recognise letters and words through name labels and labels on familiar objects. They know how to use books appropriately and enjoy story time. Older children can write or type their names, and younger children recognise the first letter of their name.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children benefit from well planned and stimulating activities, which help children use numbers confidently, such as identifying and placing numbers in sequence on wall display. Staff support children well in developing their use of mathematical language during activities such as matching and sorting and encourage learning and thinking through skilful questioning. Children use simple addition and subtraction with growing confidence and are learning to solve problems during practical activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to learn about the world they live in. Well planned activities and links with local schools offer the children lots of experiences such as experimenting with musical instruments and observing and handling frogs and snails. They are able to build and construct with a variety of materials such as sand, bricks and art and craft. Children learn about information technology through using the computer, tape recorder and telephones.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are taught to use a range of small and large equipment confidently and with increasing control. They crawl, balance, climb and use the stairs with confidence. Staff support children well as they develop an awareness of themselves, space and others. Staff plan good opportunities for children to learn about their health. For example with a visiting dental hygienist.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have good opportunities to explore colour, texture, shape space and form in two and three dimensions through a variety of well planned activities and resources. They are encouraged to use their senses through activities and equipment. Children use their imagination through activities such as role play in the home area, and wearing animal masks in the garden. They enjoy group singing time, sing rhymes independently when playing, and use musical instruments to experiment with sound.

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 improve the following: opportunities for children to label their own work

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.