



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY287777

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/05/2004
Inspector Name Janet Ann Keeling

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Creche Day Care
Setting Name Asquith Nursery/Creche - Solihull (Reg 22/04/2004)
Setting Address C/o David Lloyd Leisure
Highlands Road, Shirley
Solihull
West Midlands
B90 4NU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Asquith Court Nurseries Limited 3077271

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Asquith Court Nurseries Limited
Address Orbital House
Park View Road
Berkhamsted
Hertfordshire
HP4 3EY

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

Asquith Court Nursery and Crèche opened in 1998. It operates from facilities within the David Lloyd Fitness Club, which is located in the Shirley area of Solihull.

Facilities are on two levels, the lower level accommodates children under the age of three, whilst the pre-school children are located on the first floor. The nursery has its own entrance, located off the main entrance hall. There is access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery and crèche serve the local community.

There are currently 89 children from birth to 5 years on roll. This includes 12 funded 3-year-olds and 4 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. At present there are no children attending who have special educational needs, or who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens 5 days a week for 51 weeks of the year, closing for statutory bank holidays and 1 week over the christmas period. Sessions are from 08:00hrs until 18:00hrs.

The crèche opens 7 days a week for 51 weeks of the year, closing for 1 week during the christmas period. Sessions are from 09:00hrs until 17:00hrs.

There are 22 part time / full time staff working with the children. Two thirds of the staff have early years qualifications whilst 6 staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. Casual staff are available for emergency cover. The setting receives support from a teacher / mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Asquith Court Nursery and Crèche provides good quality care for children.

Staff provide a welcoming and friendly environment where space and resources are well organised to support children's learning and play. Staff are deployed effectively to ensure the safety and welfare of the children. Children's work is attractively

displayed throughout the nursery, with photographic displays demonstrating children's involvement in a wide range of activities. A good range of toys and equipment are provided, they are in good condition and safe. All required documentation is in place, however, managers should ensure that all staff understand the nursery policies and procedures.

Staff have a good regard for safety issues within the setting and ensure hazards to children are minimised. Good health and hygiene practices have been established and children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through daily routines. However, staff should ensure confidentiality is maintained when completing medication records. Children are provided with regular meals, drinks and snacks throughout the day. Staff are aware of children's dietary needs and comply with parents wishes. However, staff should review the meal time procedures to ensure children's individual needs are supported. Staff are aware of their child protection responsibilities.

Staff provide a balanced programme of interesting and stimulating activities including regular access to outdoor play. Older and more able children have access to music and movement classes and swimming sessions. Children are confident, happy and have developed positive relationships with their peers and adults. Staff encourage children to value peoples differences and abilities, through play, books and the celebration of festivals. Overall, children's behaviour is good.

Staff work in partnership with parents to meet children's individual needs. Daily feedback ensures parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress and achievements.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a welcoming and stimulating environment where children are happy, confident and enjoy positive relationships with both their peer group and adults.
- Staff provide a balanced programme of interesting and stimulating activities which support children's learning and play. Activities are both adult-led and child-initiated. Children have good access to physical play, staff plan daily outdoor activities and twice weekly sessions in the swimming pool and the dance studio.
- Children's work is attractively displayed throughout the nursery, with photographic evidence illustrating children's involvement in an extensive range of activities both in and outside of the nursery.
- High priority is given to children's safety, staff are deployed effectively throughout the nursery and crèche, risk assessments are completed to ensure hazards to children are minimised and good procedures are in place for the arrival and collection of children.

- The partnership with parents and carers is good and is effective in supporting children's individual needs. Good quality information is available to all parents regarding the organisation, policies / procedures, planning of activities and the educational programme. Daily feedback, newsletters and notice boards keep parents fully informed.

What needs to be improved?

- the staff's understanding of nursery policies and procedures
- the procedures for completing medication forms
- the meal time routine to ensure children's individual needs are met.

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
2	Ensure all staff are fully aware and understand the nursery policies and procedures.
7	Ensure confidentiality is maintained when completing medication records.
8	Ensure children's individual needs are supported during meal times.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Asquith Court Nursery provides good quality education which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals in mathematics and very good progress towards the early learning goals in the other five areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Most staff have a good understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and understand how three and four year olds learn. Staff have implemented a new structure for curriculum planning, which provides children with a range of activities to support their learning. However, further development is required to help children learn about simple addition and to ensure children's individual learning needs are supported. Staff have developed warm and trusting relationships with the children, staff are calm, patient and encourage less able children to be fully integrated. Staff interact effectively with the children and provide good role models. Staff regularly assess and record children's progress towards the early learning goals.

Leadership and management is very good. Strong leadership provides good support and guidance for staff. Managers are highly motivated, organised and are fully committed to improving the quality of the educational programme. Staff work well as a team, have access to on-going training and development and have regular supervision. Managers and staff work in partnership with a teacher / mentor to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and planning.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive good quality information about the nursery prior to their child starting, after that, they receive regular newsletters and are invited to attend parents evenings. Parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress and achievements, through informal discussions with their child's key worker, and other members of staff. This is complemented by the use of a written 'record of achievement' book which is shared with parents on a regular basis.

What is being done well?

- Strong leadership provides effective support for all staff, who are committed to improving the quality of the educational programme and the quality of teaching.
- Staff provide a welcoming and stimulating environment which promotes children's learning and play. Staff work effectively as a team to provide a range of interesting and worthwhile activities which, enable children to make progress towards the early learning goals.
- Children's personal and social development is very good, children are enthusiastic, confident, eager to learn, express their feelings and manage

their self-care needs well.

- Children have a positive attitude towards learning and respond enthusiastically to the full range of activities and play opportunities provided.
- Children's physical development is very good. Children take part in an excellent range of physical activities, which provide appropriate challenges, in a safe, well planned environment.
- Partnership with parents is very good and is effective in supporting children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the children's understanding of simple addition in everyday situations
- the planning of activities to ensure children's individual learning needs are supported.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident, work well in groups and independently. Children have a positive attitude to learning and respond enthusiastically to a wide range of activities. Children have developed positive relationships with staff and their peers. Children are learning to share, take turns and show consideration for each other as they engage in play and group activities. Children are able to express their feelings and manage their self care needs well.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children engage easily in conversation with each other and adults. Children's listening skills are well developed as they listen attentively at story time and contribute positively at group discussion sessions. More able children are linking sounds to letters, and are beginning to understand that print carries meaning as they recognise their names on display work and on their name cards. Children are shown how to handle books and use them appropriately.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are familiar with number rhymes and songs. Most children can count up to five whilst more able children count up to ten. However, children are not encouraged to use number as part of everyday activities, such as during snack-time and small group sessions. Children are able to see numbers as labels and able to explore shape in their immediate environment. Children use mathematical language as they engage in play, such as 'big', 'little', 'under', 'on top', 'heavy' and 'light'.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn about the natural world and are developing an understanding of living things as they grow seeds and observe and record the weather changes each day. Children have opportunities to build and construct with a wide range of materials. Children have access to a computer and programmable toys to support their learning. Children take part in planned activities which look at their own and other cultures, they have access to a range of toys and resources which promote positive imagery.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show good control and co-ordination as they move confidently around nursery and are show increasing control as they negotiate the stairs and climbing frame. Children use space well, they are aware of others whilst moving around large and small areas. Children are developing their running, jumping, throwing, catching and balancing skills as they enjoy their regular weekly sessions in the dance studio. Children develop their fine-co-ordination skills through various techniques.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children participate in a wide range of activities and use a good variety of resources to explore colour, texture and shape. Children enjoy music and explore sound effectively, through dance and rhythm time, listening to music and the use of musical instruments. Children are involved in activities which encourage them to use their senses and develop their imagination such as, food-tasting, painting, music and movement sessions and role play.

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

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES

- Use daily routine and practical activities to help children develop and consolidate their understanding of simple addition.
- Continue to develop the newly implemented curriculum planning, to ensure, children's individual learning needs are addressed effectively.

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.