



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY281363

DfES Number: 583099

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/12/2004
Inspector Name	Anne Archer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Lindum Day Nursery
Setting Address	Herne Road Oundle Peterborough Cambridgeshire PE8 4BS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Magic Nurseries Ltd 04444591
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Magic Nurseries Ltd
Address	13 Esmond Road London W4 1JG

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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

Lindum Day Nursery is one of two nurseries in Northamptonshire owned by Magic Nurseries. It opened in 1993 and has been under its current ownership since February 2004. It operates from accommodation situated in the grounds of Prince William School in Oundle Northamptonshire.

A maximum of 43 children can attend the nursery at any one time. There are currently 49 children aged from six weeks to under five years on roll. Of these 10 children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 all year round except for a few days between Christmas and New Year and Bank Holidays. All children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

The nursery employs 11 staff including a cook and a cleaner. Over half of the childcare staff hold early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3 and other staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The nursery receives support from the Northamptonshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Lindum Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education overall which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Provision for children's personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy development are very good.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff develop good relationships with the children and manage them well although behaviour management methods used by new staff lack consistency on occasions. Staff use of time and resources is generally good. They provide children with a good level of support, asking appropriate questions to make children think, make choices and arrive at decisions. The planning, observation and assessments systems have recently been changed and are still being developed to make sure children receive a balanced curriculum in all six areas of learning.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. An effective system to monitor and evaluate the provision of nursery education has been introduced and areas of weakness identified have been addressed. Meetings are held with staff to share good practice and to discuss ways to develop the quality of nursery education. An appraisal system has been introduced to ensure that the training and professional development of staff has a positive impact on children's learning.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are provided with good quality information about the provision of nursery education, the policies, routines and activities within the nursery. They are encouraged to share what they know about their child and be involved in their child's learning.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children have a positive approach to new experiences and can express their ideas and feelings in appropriate ways.
- Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are provided with good quality information about the nursery provision, are encouraged to share what they know about their child and to be involved in their learning.
- The leadership and management of the nursery is strong. Staff are well supported and are clear about their roles and responsibilities which ensures a well organised learning environment for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- planning to ensure all areas of the curriculum are visited sufficiently regularly

to reinforce and extend children's learning

- the use of observations and assessments when planning for individual children's next steps in learning
- the consistency of behaviour management.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made in tackling the key issue in the previous inspection report. Letters and numbers are now prominently displayed for children to see and use when they are learning about them in their play. Staff actively encourage children to recognise and say the sounds of different letters and practise counting numbers and recognising numerals during activities and routines.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have a positive approach to new experiences and separate from their carer confidently. They feel safe and secure, show trust in the staff, behave well and have a sense of belonging. Children know what they want to do and manage developmentally appropriate tasks well. Some children persist for extended periods of time on activities of their choice. Children are starting to develop relationships with other children and show kindness to each other.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children interact and talk well and can speak clearly. They show awareness of the listener and some children confidently talk to people other than those well known to them. They are developing skills to talk activities through and connect ideas. Children listen to stories with increasing attention and recall and enjoy singing favourite songs and nursery rhymes. They participate in activities to develop pre-writing skills and use writing materials for mark making, often giving them meaning.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children develop their recognition and understanding of numbers when participating in games and action rhymes. Some children are beginning to learn about addition and subtraction through practical activities and are starting to use mathematical language. Children are developing a sense of shape and space by selecting appropriate objects to make arrangements and some children recognise recurring patterns when putting these pieces together.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Although children enjoy taking part in practical activities, opportunities for them to develop skills in exploration and investigation and designing and making are insufficiently regular for children to build on previous learning. Children develop skills to access the computer and use programmes to reinforce their learning particularly in number, shape and language. They can differentiate between past and present and they show an interest in their local environment during outside play.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children negotiate space successfully when playing amongst each other and they can adjust speed and change direction to avoid obstacles. Children use simple tools to affect change to materials and they are aware that these have to be used safely. Children are developing an awareness of a range of healthy practices in relation to eating, sleeping and exercise. Children are developing skills to use small equipment but opportunities to develop the skills required to use large equipment are limited.	

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children explore what happens when they mix colour and use a variety of media. They participate in activities to develop their senses. They listen to a range of music throughout the day and enjoy joining in with simple songs. However opportunities to experiment with sound using musical instruments are limited. Children use their imagination in a variety of ways and some introduce a narrative into their play. However children do not use their imagination during art and design activities.	

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

- continue to develop planning, observation and assessment systems to ensure all children receive a balanced curriculum in all six areas of learning
- ensure all staff adopt a consistent approach to managing children's behaviour.

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.