



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127806

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/11/2003
Inspector Name Lynn Clements

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Epping Montessori Nursery
Setting Address Catholic Church Hall
Church Hill
Epping
CM16 4RA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs J Timms

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

Epping Montessori Nursery is registered to provides care for 26 children under five years.

The Nursery has been running since 1992. It operates from three rooms, comprising of a large hall, kitchen, entrance lobby and toilets. The Nursery is based in the local Catholic church in the town of Epping and serve the local area.

There are currently 27 children on roll. This includes 15 funded three year olds and 4 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery has strategies in place to support children with special educational needs and English as an additional language.

The Nursery opens 5 days a week during term times. Sessions last from 09:30hrs until 12:30hrs.

Four part time members of staff work with the children. All staff hold relevant early years and Montessori qualifications. The setting works with the local Early Years Education Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Epping Montessori provides good quality care for children.

There are good staffing levels and effective use of key workers provides children with a secure and reassuring environment. Relevant training has been accessed to meet requirements and all staff hold early years qualifications. The setting is warm and welcoming and resources are child accessible. Attention to visual aspects such as displays ensures a bright, friendly environment for children and their families. there is a wide range of interesting resources, child height furniture and equipment. Record's policies and procedures are in place. All documentation is securely stored although confidentiality in the incident book needs to be addressed.

Management ensures the staff team have a consistent approach to risk assessment and safety procedures, which keep children safe. Staff promote children's awareness of hygiene and safety through daily routines, which include washing their hands. Dietary requirements are recognised and children enjoy healthy nutritious snacks. Visual displays and children's creations around the setting provide children with positives images of cultural diversity and gender issues. Staff actively support

children with special educational needs and English as an additional language. There are effective policies and procedures in place regarding child protection which ensures children's welfare comes first.

Children and adults relate well to each other and behaviour is good. Children are confident to approach adults and initiate conversations. The key worker system enables staff to plan and meet children's individual needs effectively.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents and key workers share information on a regular basis. The nursery provides regular newsletters, holds parents evenings and obtains information from parents prior to placement ensuring smooth transitions between home and the nursery.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the following actions were raised. Devise a visitor's record book, develop an operational plan and ensure emergency evacuation procedures, incident record book, medications book, complaints procedure, and register all reflect requirements under the national care standards. Obtain permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Also to devise an action plan to link areas of learning with the foundation stage curriculum. Devise a behaviour management policy that is understood and implemented by staff. Ensures staff receive appropriate foundation stage and equal opportunities training. Finally provide sufficient toys and resources for children to develop their own learning, identify a person responsible for child protection, special educational needs and behaviour management. All of these actions have been met, policies and procedures are now up dated and in place. Permission has been obtained from parents regarding medical treatment. Register and visitor's records are in place. Staff have attended equal opportunities and relevant foundation stage training which has enabled them to plan learning areas effectively. Toys and resources help children to extend their own learning and regular large physical activities and trips help children develop gross motor skills. Named member's of staff are now in place to co-ordinate special educational needs, behaviour management and child protection.

What is being done well?

- An effective key worker system is in place which helps children become independent, confident and ensures their individual needs are met
- Play opportunities and activities provided for children build on what they already know and extends their imagination and investigative skills
- Strong partnership with parents enables children to move confidently between home and the nursery
- Behaviour is good, staff act as positive role models, listening to children and helping them to co-operate with each other taking turns and sharing

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Epping Montessori nursery provides a wealth of exciting opportunities for children to extend their own learning and discover the world around them. They taste foods

from other cultures, celebrate festivals and wear traditional costumes. Children learn about healthy eating and develop their independence by preparing snack and washing up afterwards. Staff provide a multi sensory child centred environment. Children are well motivated and keen to select and try the wide range of activities provided. (Standard 3)

What needs to be improved?

- ensure staff signatures are recorded in the accident record book
- ensure the incident book records information confidentiality
- update the behaviour management policy to in co-operate a statement on bullying in line with the national care standards

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
14	ensure accident book is signed by staff
14	ensure incidents recorded in the record book remain confidential
14	incorporate statement on bullying in the behaviour policy

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.