



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY252880

DfES Number: 584169

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/06/2004
Inspector Name	Lisa Jane Cupples

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Grayshott Montessori
Setting Address	St Josephs Church Headley Road Grayshott Hampshire GU26 6DP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Jane Fisher
------	-----------------

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

Grayshott Montessori Nursery opened in September 2002, when it was re-registered with a new owner. It is a privately run nursery. It operates from a church hall in Grayshott, on the outskirts of Hindhead. The nursery has access to the main church hall, the kitchen, the toilets and a secure outdoor play area. The nursery serves the local community and surrounding areas.

The nursery is registered to provide care for 20 children aged from 2 years to 5 years. It is the settings normal practice to accept children from 2 years 6 months, due to the facilities available. There are currently 24 children on roll. This includes 6 funded 4 year olds and 10 funded 3 year olds. The setting currently supports a number of children who have special needs or English as an additional language.

The nursery opens 5 mornings a week during school term time only. Sessions are from 09:30 to 12:30. Children attend a variety of sessions.

There are 7 full and part time staff who work directly with the children. All the staff hold early years qualifications to a minimum of level 3. The nursery offers the Montessori Philosophy alongside traditional teaching methods. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and are currently working towards accreditation.

How good is the Day Care?

Grayshott Montessori Nursery provides good quality care for children. The organisation of the staff team, daily routines and activities work well. The setting is warm and welcoming, helping the children to settle and feel at ease. The activities provided ensure the children are fully engaged throughout the sessions. Most paperwork is in place and maintained to a high standard.

The staff team provide a safe environment for the children and their families. The premises are clean and the children's work is displayed brightly. Good hygiene practice is in place throughout the setting; children are actively encouraged to wash

their hands at appropriate times. The nursery provides a range of healthy and nutritious snacks. They work closely with the parents to ensure their wishes are respected at all times. The staff have a clear understanding of equal opportunities and child protection procedures.

Staff have a good understanding of the developmental needs of children. The broad range of general and Montessori resources are used effectively to provide a balanced programme. Staff are able to adapt the activities well to ensure all children can join in. The staff manage behaviour consistently and the children behave well, they know what is expected of them and good manners are promoted.

Partnership with parents is very good. The staff are friendly, helpful and approachable, providing a caring environment for the whole family. The children's progress is discussed daily. Communication is good and the parents are welcome in the setting at any time.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff interact extremely well with the children. They provide a varied and stimulating range of activities designed to promote the children's learning in all areas. Children are sufficiently challenged, interested and completely occupied during the sessions.
- The extensive range of equipment and play materials are stored effectively on low-level shelves. Children access the resources independently throughout the sessions, developing their self-confidence and freedom of choice.
- Staff take the time to get to know each child and their family well. This enables them to plan and organise daily routines and activities to meet the children's individual needs. Staff encourage the children to participate fully. The children enjoy a range of multi-cultural activities, enriching their experience and understanding of the world around them.
- The staff have a consistent and relaxed approach towards behaviour management. Clear rules and boundaries are in place and used effectively to develop the children's sense of right and wrong. Good behaviour is recognised and rewarded with praise and encouragement.
- Staff develop strong relationships with the parents. Newsletters, daily discussions and the parents' notice board help to keep them informed at all times. Parents have access to their children's achievement records on request.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedure for dealing with a lost child
- the details recorded of all visitors to the setting
- the procedure to ensure parents sign to acknowledge the administration of medication
- the availability of the complaints procedure for the parents.

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	Ensure visitors contact details are recorded.
7	Ensure parents sign to acknowledge the administration of all medication.
14	Implement a written lost child policy and ensure the policy and the complaints procedure is made available to parents.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Grayshott Montessori Nursery provides acceptable nursery education of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a clear understanding of the Foundation Stage and use this knowledge creatively to provide a well-balanced, interesting curriculum. Activities are differentiated well to meet the needs of each child. Staff effectively question the children to extend their learning. The group Senco liaises extremely well with the parents and other agencies. The staff team work exceptionally well together, ensuring each session runs smoothly.

The leadership and management of the setting is very good. Clear roles and responsibilities are defined and all staff know what is expected of them. Daily activities are evaluated to identify strengths and weaknesses. Practice is amended to improve the delivery of the curriculum. Staff appraisals are used to monitor individual staff performance and identify possible training needs. The setting liaises well with other agencies to continually develop the nursery and improve the quality of education and care for all children.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive a detailed prospectus and policies are displayed on the notice board. Parents are welcome in the group at any time and often attend for a whole session on a rota. The children's progress is recorded in detail and available to the parents. There are few opportunities for the parents to make written contributions about their children's home learning. Most information is shared through daily discussion to keep the parents fully informed.

What is being done well?

- Staff have a good understanding of what they expect the children to gain from the activities. They make use of opportunities which arise during the session to reinforce children's learning and understanding. Deployment of staff is very good, which ensures the children are supported and are able to move from one activity to another without having to wait.
- Staff question the children effectively, encouraging them to think and contribute their own ideas. They continually extend the children's vocabulary, introducing new words at every opportunity. Staff offer appropriate support and encouragement to the younger children, while providing sufficient challenges for those more able.
- Children are actively involved in the learning. They are confident, work well independently, take initiative and show high levels of concentration in a variety of situations; for example - during free-play, registration time, story-time and more structured activities.

- Children's progress in mathematics is developing very well. Many opportunities are provided throughout the day to extend the children's knowledge and understanding of numbers in differing contexts.

What needs to be improved?

- the provision of programmable toys on a regular basis to help support and extend the children's learning
- the opportunities provided for the parents to make written contributions about their children's learning at home.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, this is the groups first education inspection since the new owner registered the provision.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are keen and eager to learn. They participate in all the activities with enthusiasm. Children sit quietly and concentrate well when required. Children form good relationships with adults and their peers. They are able to separate from their carers with ease. Children take turns and share fairly. They are developing a good sense of right and wrong and are beginning to show consideration for others. Children self-select the resources and show high levels of independence.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers. They are able to express their feelings and explain their ideas. Children have a good vocabulary and use books correctly. Some children can read simple words and sentences, others recognise the shape and sound of letters. Children understand that text has meaning. They practice emergent writing skills during practical activities and free-play. Some children write their full names, the younger children are able to form clear, recognisable letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently up to and above 11. They recognise numerals up to 9. Children are beginning to problem solve during practical activities. They can compare numbers and are beginning to calculate using simple number operations. They add and subtract using groups of objects. Children recognise and recreate patterns when threading and drawing. They use mathematical language to describe shape, position, size, quantity and weight.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are curious, they explore a wide range of natural and man-made resources. They experiment with magnets and plant seeds to watch them grow. Children build and construct using a selection of materials and a range of techniques and work out which is best. Children use everyday technology during some sessions, however, there are few opportunities to use programmable toys. Children have a good sense of time and place. They are developing an awareness of the world around them.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move around the setting with confidence. They have good hand-eye co-ordination during practical and physical activities. Children have good spatial awareness. They are able to find their own space in group activities. They often move resources or chairs to make room for others to join in. Children recognise changes to their bodies during and after physical activities. Children are able to run, jump, climb and balance and manipulate a range of tools with increasing control.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children recognise and name a range of colours and shapes during practical activities. they explore textures and experiment with the resources. Children have a good repertoire of songs and confidently match actions to rhymes. They play a selection of musical instruments and are able to recognise sound patterns and repeat them. Children use their imaginations well during free-play, art and role-play. They use all of their senses to investigate the world around them.	

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 improving the following:
- provide more opportunities for children to use programmable toys to support and extend their learning and understanding
- increase the opportunities for parents to make written contributions to their children's achievement records, regarding their children's learning at home.

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.