



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 130764

DfES Number: 514101

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/03/2004
Inspector Name Christine McInally

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School
Setting Address The Village Hall
 Park Road, Rottingdean
 Brighton
 East Sussex
 BN2 7HL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Teresa Elliott

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

The Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School, first opened in 1993 and is a privately owned. It is located in the village hall and serves the local community and surrounding areas. It is open from 09.00 until 12.55, Monday to Friday during term-time only. There are currently twenty two children on roll and of these; fifteen are funded three-year-olds and six are funded four-year-olds. There are currently two children identified as having special educational needs and the nursery also has good experience of caring for children for whom English is an additional language. The staff team of four consists of the owner, a qualified Montessori teacher, one other Montessori teacher and two part time assistants. Both the owner and the other Montessori teacher also hold other relevant, level three, childcare qualifications. The nursery receives support from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The standard and quality of care at Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School is good. There is an effective operational plan which guides the staff team in their daily practice. The nursery provides a stimulating, child friendly environment where children are happy and well settled. There are good safety measures in place and children are safe and well cared for.

Staff form warm caring relationships with the children, they plan and provide an interesting, worthwhile range of activities. Children are making good progress in all areas of development. The good range of Montessori resources is very well used to support children's learning. Children play confidently together and enjoy choosing resources and activities for themselves.

Partnership with parents is very good. There are formal and informal systems to share information on children's achievements and progress, ensuring their individual needs are well met. All the relevant paperwork is in place and well maintained, however one policy needs updating.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Following the last inspection the setting agreed to develop their records regarding staff, to write a policy for the exclusion of sick or infectious children and to provide parents with the contact details for Ofsted. The operational plan now includes details of staff qualifications and training, and a sick child policy has been written and implemented. The prospectus for parents now includes contact details for Ofsted.

What is being done well?

- Children are happy and confident, they enjoy choosing activities and resources for themselves and taking part in activities that build on their interests. They are well motivated to learn.
- Staff are confident in their management of children's behaviour. Children respond well to the consistent praise and encouragement. They readily take part in activities, help to tidy away resources and are very well behaved.
- The stimulating range of interesting activities and topics. Children are making very good progress in all areas of learning and development.

What needs to be improved?

- the child protection policy.

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
13	Update the child protection policy to include the procedures to be followed should an allegation be made against a member of staff.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for funded education at Rottingdean Montessori Nursery School is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff plan a variety of stimulating and interesting activities, and understand what children learn from them. While the nursery follows the Montessori Method staff have a clear understanding of the stepping stones and the early learning goals and how the Montessori method links into the Foundation Stage. This is reflected in the activities and rich, stimulating learning environment provided. Staff give good support and question children effectively encouraging them to think for themselves. Activities are presented in an enthusiastic manner and staff are skilled in using the Montessori equipment to develop children's understanding, particularly of number and their language skills. Staff give good support to children identified as having special educational needs or those with English as an additional language. The nursery is very well equipped and resources are of good quality.

The nursery has an effective assessment system in place to record children's progress and achievements; the information gathered is continually evaluated and well used to plan for the children's next stage in learning. However, the system used does not always link directly into the stepping stones and children's progress towards the early learning goals.

The leadership and management is very good. The owner and staff understand their differing roles and responsibilities. The staff work well together as a team and are actively encouraged to attend further training. There are formal and informal systems in place to monitor and evaluate the provision, ensuring continual improvement.

Partnership with parents is very good. They are provided with clear, useful information on the nursery and the Montessori Method.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is given high priority. Children are happy, confident and interested in the activities offered. They are developing an awareness of others needs and good self-esteem.
- Staff use everyday activities well to help children learn how to use numbers and to extend their understanding of adding numbers together or taking them away.
- Children's communication language and literacy skills are very well developed. Children are confident speakers, enjoy books and understand writing can be used for different purposes. They are beginning to write for

themselves and generally form letters correctly.

- Children's personal independence is very well developed. They learn to look after themselves and their surroundings as they practise doing up buttons and zips, and as they wash their plates and cups after snack.
- Staff create a stimulating environment where children learn through practical play activities. Children are confident to try ever increasing challenges.

What needs to be improved?

- the system for assessment.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery has made very good progress in addressing the key issues raised at the last inspection. They continue to monitor and evaluate the provision and children are making very good progress in all six areas of learning. The programme for physical development has been extended to include more opportunities for children to further develop their climbing and balancing skills.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and well settled. They show concern for each other, they share and take turns well. They form good relationships with other children and adults, and are sensitive to others needs. They enjoy the wide range of activities offered. The Montessori Method contributes very well to the children developing their own personal independence. Staff value children's work and contributions and they are developing good self-esteem.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers, they listen well at story time and to instructions. They negotiate well in their activities. Children enjoy books and handle them appropriately. They are encouraged to notice sounds of letters and rhyme in stories and poems. Writing skills are developed, for example, as sandpaper letters are experienced by touch as well as by sight and sound. They attempt to write for themselves and staff give good support to help them form the letters correctly.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently to 10 and beyond. They are encouraged to use comparative language in everyday activities, for example, as they place the houses in front of or beside features on the village layout. They sort and match and make patterns. Everyday situations are used well to problem solve, such as working out the date. The Montessori equipment is very well used to develop children's understanding of mathematical concepts.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

A interesting range of topics allow children to explore and investigate aspects of the natural and man made world. They are encouraged to talk about past and present events. They are developing an awareness of their own and other cultures, through a range of resources and as they celebrate a variety of festivals. They have sufficient opportunities to build and design for themselves and to be introduced to everyday technology.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move with confidence showing a good awareness of space and others. They are beginning to use a variety of tools and implements with increasing skill for example, as they polish the cups and candlesticks, or as they pour from container to container. They learn about health and bodily awareness through topics and planned activities. Children are learning to handle tools such as pencils, brushes and scissors with increasing skill.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore texture, shape and colour as they use a variety of media in both two and three dimensions. They are encouraged to use their senses to respond to what they see and touch, for example sandpaper numbers and letters, and baking activities. Opportunities are provided for imaginative play and role-play activities. They have good opportunities to choose creative materials for themselves. They learn about rhythm as they sing and play musical instruments.

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:

- Improve the assessment system to show more clearly how the Montessori Method relates to the stepping stones towards the early learning goals.

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.