



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY302109

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 31/01/2005  
Inspector Name Mary Van De Peer

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Asquith Court Nursery - Maidstone  
Setting Address Oldborough Manor Community School  
Boughton Lane  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME15 9QF

### 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. 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

Asquith Court Nursery, Oldborough Manor, is one of over a hundred child care facilities run by Asquith Court Nurseries Ltd. It originally opened in 1997, taken over by the current owners in 2004. The nursery operates from several rooms in two purpose built buildings. It is situated on the site of a large secondary school on the outskirts of Maidstone, Kent. A maximum of 80 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:30 all the year round. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 123 children aged from 3 months to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 45 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment the nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs. There are currently no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 27 staff. There are 16 staff, including the manager who hold early years qualifications. There are also 2 staff working towards a recognised child care qualification.

### How good is the Day Care?

Asquith Court Nursery - Maidstone, at Oldborough Manor, provides good quality care for children.

Staff work well as a team and offer a warm and welcoming environment to children and their families. Many staff are qualified to the required level. A range of policies and procedures are available for parents and staff, however these could be more accessible. Daily attendance records are in place but do not show clear arrival and departure times. Toys, equipment and premises are checked regularly.

Children are safe and well cared for. The premises are secure and children supervised at all times. An emergency evacuation procedure is practiced with the children. Children's medication administration information is recorded very effectively, however the method used for recording accidents would benefit from a review. The majority of staff have current first aid training. Children's dietary requirements are met in agreement with parents.

The nursery has a good range of toys and activities which are suitable to children's

age and development. However, many activities are adult directed, leaving less opportunities for children to have the freedom to choose and play within their own timescales. Children's behaviour is good. Children with special educational needs are supported well.

The nursery's partnership with parents is good. The key worker system is effective in providing parents with regular information about their children's progress and development. Parents are happy with the care their children receive.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The nursery is warm and welcoming to both children and their parents. Staff work well as a team and are able to provide parents with regular feedback about their children. Children feel safe and secure.
- The staff have many opportunities to update their child care knowledge and training, including first aid. This helps to ensure children are being cared for by suitable persons.
- The nursery ensures the premises are safe and secure for children and staff. Evacuation procedures are practiced to enable everyone to leave the premises safely in an emergency.
- There is a very good system and procedure for children's safe medication administration. This helps to ensure children are only given medication with full parental knowledge and written permission.
- The staff use consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour. They praise and encourage good behaviour. Children are well behaved and respectful.
- The staff have good relationships with the children. They interact positively with them talking and playing with them. The children are generally happy and settled.
- The staff have a positive attitude and effective procedures for dealing with children with special educational needs. Parents and outside agencies are involved whenever necessary. This helps with the continuity of care of the children.
- There is a good partnership with parents. Written information is provided to keep parents informed about the running of the nursery. Parents are happy with the care their children receive.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the registration system

- the opportunities for children's individual needs to be met more consistently
- the method used for recording accidents
- the complaints procedure contact details.

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)**

There no complaints to report.

**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	Review registration system to ensure children's arrival and departure times are accurately recorded.
3	Ensure children's individual needs are being met by providing more play opportunities.
7	Review method for recording accidents.
12	Ensure complaints procedure includes Ofsted contact details.

## **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.*