



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100610

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/07/2004
Inspector Name Chris Banks

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name The Dolphin Montessori School
Setting Address Luther Tyndale Church Hall, Leighton Crescent
London
NW5 2QY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Miss Carole Limtouch

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

The Dolphin Montessori school was registered in 1992 and is affiliated to the Pre School Learning Alliance.

It operates from the Luther Tyndale church hall in the NW5 area of the London Borough of Camden and mostly serves families living in the immediate catchment area. Children have access to a hall, 3 activity rooms and outdoor play area.

There are currently 11 children aged between 2 and 5 years on roll. This includes 4 funded 3 year olds and 2 funded 4 year olds.

The group operates term time only and is open between 09:00 and 15:00 Monday to Thursday. Children attend a variety of sessions and a few remain all day.

Staff who work with the children hold appropriate Early Years teaching and childcare qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

The Dolphin Montessori School provides a good standard of care for children aged between two and five years.

Shared premises are secure, bright and reasonably well maintained with good standards of hygiene throughout. Staff create an extremely warm and welcoming play environment by ensuring rooms are well organised and prepared in advance of children's arrival.

There are comprehensive and clearly documented policies and procedures relating to children's health and safety. These are effectively put into practice by staff who place high priority on protecting the welfare of children they care for.

The qualified and long established staff team work in a co operative and professional way to provide children with warm and consistent care. They know the children very well and foster caring and supportive relationships with them. Children are happy and confident in the setting and behave well. Information is effectively gathered and recorded about the individual needs of each child and daily routines are sensitively planned.

Children's learning and development is well supported. Staff facilitate a diverse

range of stimulating, challenging and enjoyable activities and also build imaginative project work into the programme for older children. Better outdoor play and learning opportunities are being developed by staff. There is an extensive range of Montessori and mainstream early learning toys, equipment and materials. All are of good quality and made easily accessible to children.

There are well established and supportive relationships with parents who receive comprehensive written information about the service. On a daily basis they are warmly welcomed and good systems for monitoring and recording children's progress helps ensure they are kept very well informed in the longer term.

What has improved since the last inspection?

all documentation has been reviewed and updated.

What is being done well?

- The indoor space is creatively organised with comfortable space set aside for quieter, more reflective activities. Children's creative contributions are valued and vibrant displays of their work help create a sense of ownership of the shared space.
- The staff are motivated and keep themselves professionally well informed by attending training with the local authority Early Years Service and other professional bodies.
- written information for parents is well developed. It includes key information about the service, curriculum, how children's behaviour is managed, a child protection and equality statement and complaints procedure. A written home / school agreement is also built in.

What needs to be improved?

- overall accessibility and security of the outdoor play area

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
4	Continue to improve the overall security and accessibility of the outdoor play area.

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.