



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 137819

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 09/12/2003 |
| Inspector Name | Seema Parmar |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Full Day Care |
| Setting Name | Learning Tree Montessori Nursery School |
| Setting Address | 309 Preston Road Harrow Middlesex HA3 0QQ |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | Ms Eileen Wilson |
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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

Learning Tree Montessori Nursery school opened in 1995. It operates from a ground floor of a private house, in Wembley, in the London Borough Of Brent. The setting has access to three main classrooms, with additional access to smaller areas for arts and crafts activities; outdoor lunch hut; office; toilets; and kitchenette facilities. There is a secure garden area for outdoor play.

The setting serves the local community.

There are currently 51 children aged 2 to 4 years old on roll. Of these 15 children are aged 2 to 3 years old. This includes 34 funded 3 year olds and 2 funded 4 year olds.

Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week, 44 weeks of the year, from 08:00 to 16:00 hours.

8 staff work with the children. Most of the staff members hold relevant early years qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

Learning Tree Montessori Nursery school provides satisfactory care.

The setting provides an environment based on the Montessori principals and the Foundation Stage of learning.

There are a wide range of activities that help children make good progress in most areas of their development. They offer a good balance of structured activities and self directed play. However, during the inspection, staff to child ratio's were not being maintained, due to staff illness and shortages. This had an impact on the organisation of the activities, where children were participating in larger groups. This also caused valuable missed opportunities for some of the younger and older children, who lost concentration and did not fully participate in the worthwhile activities being offered.

Staff work well with children. They are clear and consistent about the boundaries in place for suitable behaviour. Children are well behaved and polite.

The premises is welcoming and clean. There are suitable procedures in place to ensure that children are safe on the premises. However, the arrangements for lunch times and staff supervision at this period of time, must improve. The lunch hut used does not have suitable heating. The setting must ensure that staff to child ratio's are adhered to at this time. Children's independence and self help skills are promoted as an integral part of their development. However, the setting must ensure that children have access to suitable hand drying facilities which minimises cross infection, after hand washing.

Staff generally have a satisfactory understanding of child abuse issues. Although, this needs to improve by gaining knowledge of the reporting procedures for child protection concerns.

Record keeping is generally good, however, these lack the necessary details.

The nursery keeps parent's well informed about itself through a notice board, outside the premises. A home to school link approach is to ensure continuity of the children learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There were no actions raised at the last inspection.

What is being done well?

- There is a good range of toys, resources and activities that offer interest and challenge to the children. During the inspection, I observed children to use computer's with confidence and skill. Staff were near by to support and guide as necessary.
- The setting uses external organisations to come into the nursery to teach children French and Music sessions that incorporates the early learning goals. This gives the staff the opportunity to observe and record the children's developmental progress and gives children access to a broader curriculum.
- The organisation of the resources enable children to make their own choices. Well defined play areas are inviting for children. Children are confidently able to select their activities and tidy up when they finish.
- Management and staff help children learn right from wrong, they are good role models and deal with the children's behaviour in a sensitive manner.
- Parent's are invited to parents evening where they are able to discuss their child's progress. Parent socials are organised during the summertime. Open days are organised for existing parents to come in to view the principals of the Montessori methods.

What needs to be improved?

- notification to Ofsted of any changes in adults working on the premises, in advance when possible, if not, within 14 days.
- staff to child ratio's at all times, in particular, with the 2 to 3 year olds. There must be 1 member of staff to every 4 children and 1 staff member to every 8 children, aged 3 to 5 years.
- documentation, record the hours of daily attendance for each child.
- the organisation of group sizes at circle times; project sessions; activity periods; and lunch times, to meet the overall needs of children.
- the heating system in the wooden lunch hut; the use of the fan heater is not adequate. It either over heats the area or the hut becomes too cold very quickly.
- the supervision of children; during lunch time, one staff member supervises children. This is not an acceptable situation for the staff member or for children.
- the hand drying facilities, the use of a cotton towel is not suitable for use considering the number of children attending the nursery.
- staff's knowledge and understanding of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedure

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

| Std | Action | Date |
|-----|---|------------|
| 1 | Notify Ofsted of any changes in adults working on the premises, in advance when possible, if not, within 14 days. | 09/12/2003 |
| 2 | Ensure that staff to child ratio's are maintained at all times. | 09/12/2003 |

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| 2 | Ensure that there are no more than 8 children in the lunch hut, at any one time. | 09/12/2003 |
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| The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection | |
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| Std | Recommendation |
| 2 | Record the hours of attendance for each child. |
| 3 | Review the organisation of group sizes at circle times; project sessions; activity periods; and lunch times, to meet the overall needs of children. |
| 4 | Provide an adequate heating system in the wooden lunch hut. |
| 6 | Ensure that children are supervised appropriately at all times. |
| 7 | Provide appropriate hand drying facilities for children to use after washing their hands. |
| 13 | Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedure. |

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.