



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 108065

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/02/2004
Inspector Name	Ann Field

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Gerrards Cross Montessori School
Setting Address	Methodist Church Hall Oak End Way Gerrards Cross Buckinghamshire SL9 8BR

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Lorraine Douglas
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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

The Gerrards Cross Montessori School opened in December 1999. It operates from rooms in the Methodist Church Hall and serves the local area.

There are currently 19 children aged 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 8 funded 3-year-olds and 4 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. None have special needs and the group supports children who speak English as an additional language. The Montessori School opens 4 days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 09:30 until 12:30 with a lunch club until 13:30 on a Monday and Tuesday. The school is closed on Wednesdays.

Two staff work with the children, one of whom is the provider who has a Montessori Diploma. Both staff have current paediatric first aid certificates. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

The Gerrards Cross Montessori School provides satisfactory care for children. The spacious premises give the children the opportunity to take part in a range of stimulating activities; they are encouraged to make their own choices and decisions. The staff qualification requirements are not being met, but the manager is addressing this issue. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure that the staff have a consistent approach to their work.

The staff have an understanding of safety issues and most areas for promoting children's safety and protection have been addressed. Levels of supervision are low for short periods of time when a member of staff is otherwise occupied. The children are helped to learn good personal hygiene habits and to have respect for each other. The staff know the children well and take account of individual needs.

The staff plan and implement a range of interesting and exciting activities linked to a specific theme; the children are eager to participate. They respond well to staff's praise and encouragement and feel secure in the boundaries set. The staff provide an environment that positively recognises differences and promotes an understanding of the wider world.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. They are kept informed about the daily activities and are happy with the service provided. Good records are kept,

but occasionally lack organisation and all the necessary detail.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure all staff had knowledge of the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures. The provider has attended an update course; a detailed file is available to staff who will also attend child protection training.

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

- The children participate in a wide range of stimulating activities, which are well resourced. They make choices about their play and appear to enjoy following the Montessori philosophy. The staff involve the children in new experiences. They invite people from the local community to enhance the learning experience, for example visits from fire and police officers.
- The setting has some effective systems for developing good partnerships with parents. The staff ensure that the nursery is welcoming; parents and children are greeted on arrival. The parents are given access to all the policies and procedures. A notice board and table in the entrance hall provide the parents with details of the setting and photographs of their children participating in various activities. There is a comprehensive prospectus for new parents and home diaries are available for all children.
- The staff know the children well and respect their religious, cultural and family backgrounds. There is a wide selection of resources reflecting positive images and a strong emphasis is put on developing the children's awareness of the local community and the wider world. The staff encourage an environment where all children are included and their opinions and ideas are considered; they value children's efforts and ensure their artwork is displayed.

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

- qualifications, so that the deputy meets the qualification requirement to enable her to take charge in the absence of the manager
- documentation, to ensure that anyone helping at the session has their attendance recorded in the register and the child protection policy is revised to set out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or a volunteer working in the school
- records, to ensure that each child's file has a clear definition between care records and education developmental profiles
- safety, to ensure that the hot water in the toilet does not pose a hazard to children and that an adequate level of supervision is maintained at all times.

**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
2	Develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met.	31/03/2004

**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
13	Ensure that the child protection statement includes the procedures to be followed if an accusation of abuse is made against a member of staff or volunteer.

## **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.*