



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 139119

DfES Number: 584886

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/01/2005
Inspector Name	Susan Mary Rolfe

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Tara Kindergarden Uxbridge
Setting Address	Lawn Road Uxbridge UB8 2TJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mr R Nagendran
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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 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

Tara Kindergarten have been registered for eight years. It is one of five day care settings owned by the Provider. The nursery operates from two sites, one for children under two years and the other for children over two years. The buildings are a few yards from each other and are located in a residential area, close to the Uxbridge town centre.

Tara Kindergarten is registered for 60 children under five years. There are currently 42 children from 12 months to four years on roll. This includes eleven funded three year olds and three funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions and may attend from the age of three months.

The nursery is open for five days a week, from 07:30 to 18.00, all year round with the exception of Bank Holidays and the Christmas period.

Thirteen full time staff work with the children, six of whom have relevant early years qualifications. The nursery employs a cook on a part-time basis. Some staff speak the additional languages of Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Swahili and Urdu. Children who have special needs and English as an additional language are supported within the setting.

The nursery receives support from the Hillingdon Childcare and Early Years Education Service

How good is the Day Care?

Tara Kindergarten provides a satisfactory standard of childcare.

The premises are safe and secure. The rooms are attractively decorated with posters and children's art work. The area occupied by children over the age of two years is not always maintained at an appropriate temperature.

Children are grouped appropriately and all areas are utilized to make the best use of space. The self contained baby unit provides children with separate areas for

sleeping, meal times, messy play, nappy changing facilities and a carpet area for floor toys. Older children have easy access to a wide range of play equipment. Children enjoy art and craft activities and are positively encouraged to experiment. The garden area is often used by all children over the age of two at the same time, resulting in restriction of free movement.

Staff are warm and caring towards all children. They work well as a team to meet children's individual needs. Induction for new staff is effective, however, the appropriate checks are not always completed on new staff and Ofsted are not notified of the changes. There are effective systems in place to ensure that staff who have not completed the required vetting procedure are not left unsupervised.

Children are given a good quantity of food. The menus offer limited amounts of fresh foods and some parents have made comment on this. Although drinks are available to children within the rooms, these are not always in easy access. Children participate in social meal times, are encouraged to try foods and their individual dietary requirements are adhered to.

Records are generally well maintained, however some accident records are not always confidential. There is a good amount of written information relating to the care of the children. Staff have a strong partnership with parents who are given much feedback on their child's time at the setting. Parents provided many positive written comments of the care their children receive.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the previous inspection the nursery were required to maintain clear fire exits, enhance use of play space and interaction with babies, ensure ratios were met when babies transferred into the older group room whilst still under the age of two years and have records available at all times.

The play space has been reorganised. It now includes a defined play area which is sectioned off from the reception hall. Good use is made of the book area in the Busy Bees room. The changes result in children having more play space and opportunities for role play and quiet times.

The staff in the baby room talk to and play with children at an appropriate level. Babies are given much time and attention. Currently the number of children in this area is low and they usually stay in the baby room until they are two years of age. When they transfer to the older group rooms the staff ratios are met. If required, the nursery employ qualified agency staff.

The nursery has a fire evacuation procedure displayed. This is practiced periodically and well recorded. However the last evacuation time was prolonged and the procedure has not been practiced since August 2004. The manager is aware of the need to review the frequency of the fire drills.

All records were available at the time of the inspection. They are well maintained and contain information that is relevant to the care of the children.

What is being done well?

- Children are involved in a broad range of activities which support their language, imagination and creativity. They have easy access to sand, water, craft and imaginary play. The children are taken on outings to places such as the Transport Museum and Natural History Museum. Toys for all children are changed on a regular basis to maintain their interest.
- There is good interaction between staff and children. Staff positively encourage children's development by showing genuine interest in what children are doing, talking to them to extend their thinking and doing their best to ensure children are happy within the setting.
- There is a good partnership with parents. Staff greet parents warmly and allow time for them to discuss the needs of their child. A good amount of information is recorded on the children's needs. Parents complete several consent forms relating to medication, emergency arrangements and outings. The complaints procedure gives parents full contact details of Ofsted as the regulators of childcare. The strong partnership results in established children being happy and confident within the setting.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedure which ensures Ofsted are informed of changes of staff,
- the procedure which ensures staff undergo the appropriate checks, including criminal records,
- the planning relating to the use of the garden for children over the age of two years,
- the availability of more nutritious foods and the accessibility of drinks,
- confidentiality of accident records.

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.)

N/A

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	Make sure there are procedures in place which ensure that Ofsted are informed of staff changes and that the appropriate checks, including criminal records, are completed on staff within a reasonable time scale.	28/01/2005

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

Std	Recommendation
4	Ensure that the rooms are maintained at an adequate temperature at all times.
4	Review the planning relating to the use of the garden to ensure that children have the facility to make best use of the space provided.
8	Review the menus to ensure that food provided for the children is nutritious and ensure the drinks available to children are more accessible.
14	Ensure that the record of accidents to children is confidentially maintained.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Tara Kindergarten provides a well planned range of activities for children who are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff work very well as a team and have established very good relationships with children, parents and carers. They plan a wide range of activities. Evaluation of the programme is carried out and records of children's developmental progress are kept. Children are happy, confident and interested in the activities offered, they engage in their chosen activities to a high level.

Children enjoy books, both fiction and non fiction. There are some missed opportunities for them to label their own work. Children are developing good number skills through various practical activities. They are involved in a wide variety of creative and imaginative play, there are good opportunities for them to build, use malleable materials and cook, but limited opportunities to experience music.

Children use the computer and programmable equipment. They grow seeds and have outings to study the local flora and fauna.

Children have limited opportunities in their physical play due to the organisation of the outdoor play programme.

Leadership and management is generally good. Staff meetings are held regularly and staff are encouraged to extend their existing skills by attending relevant training courses.

Partnership with parents is very good. They are welcomed into the setting and are kept informed of the routines and events through regular newsletters and information displayed on the notice boards. Children's developmental progress is shared with parents. Comments received from parents were positive.

What is being done well?

- Children's behaviour is very good, staff provide good role models, they promote positive behaviour by reinforcement, praise and encouraging the children.
- Staff are interested in the children, they show respect for them and engage in conversations that promote children's thinking processes.
- Children use both fiction and reference books well. They know that print carries meaning and are able to use books to seek out information.
- Partnership with parents is very good. They are kept well informed about the nursery and the progress their child is making. Staff have formed good

working relationships with parents and endeavour to keep them well informed of events happening in the nursery.

What needs to be improved?

- the programme for physical development.
- the opportunities for children to sing rhymes and songs as well as the opportunities to listen to and make music.
- the opportunities for the more able children to name and label their own work.

What has improved since the last inspection?

As a result of the last inspection, the setting was asked to improve in four areas. They covered records of assessment, writing skills, technology and music.

Staff have improved the process of recording children's developmental progress. This is shared with parents which means they are kept well informed of their child's learning and the progress they are making.

The staff have improved the opportunities for children to practice their writing during every day play activities. Staff have provided children with opportunities to write during role play, this means that children experience writing for different purposes.

The children use the computer on a regular basis. The results of their work are printed and displayed in the nursery for all to see, which means children gain pleasure and a sense of achievement from seeing the results of their work.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are forming positive relationships with adults and peers, their behaviour is very good. They are confident to express their needs and are able to take turns, share and negotiate. Children work well both in groups and independently. Whilst there are opportunities provided for the children to develop their independence this could be further developed. Through planned activities children are becoming aware of cultural, religious events and customs of countries around the world.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children listen on a one to one and in groups, they speak confidently and have wide vocabularies. Children are supported by good teaching skills and accessible resources. They link sounds to letters, recognise and write their names as well as simple words. There are some missed opportunities for the more able children to write. Children enjoy both reference and story books and know how to seek information. Children are aware that print carries meaning and is used for different purposes.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are confident in the use of numbers and are able to count to ten and beyond. They recognize numerals and are able to match, pattern and measure. They use mathematical language in every day situations and understand more and less than, bigger and smaller. There are some missed opportunities for children to estimate and practice their number skills in every day activities. Children are supported by a good range of resources that are well presented by staff.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use natural and man made materials regularly. There are good opportunities for them to use technological equipment. Good provision is made for them to observe changes and identify living things through planned projects and interest tables, as well as visits to the local pond. Through good use of photographs they are able to recall past events and observe the changes that take place over time. Awareness of customs and cultures is gained through planned projects and activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children move confidently and safely inside the nursery, they negotiate activities, furniture and one another. There are limited opportunities for them to experience purposeful physical outdoor play due to the poor organisation of the programme. Children use tools such as pencils, scissors, paint brushes and cutlery with competence. Through the use of malleable materials they are gaining dexterity skills

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have good opportunities to experience a wide range of art and craft activities using a variety of materials. They are provided with ample opportunities to experiment within the activities. They explore shape, colour, texture and form in two and three dimensions. Children have few opportunities to sing rhymes, songs and listen to and make music. They enjoy role and imaginary play and are well supported by staff who provide them with props and ensure that equipment is readily available.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES

- Improve the programme for outdoor physical play.
- Ensure that children sing songs and rhymes and have opportunities to listen to and make music.
- Extend the opportunities for the more able children to name and label their work.

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.