



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY240142

DfES Number:

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/03/2004  
Inspector Name Christina Downey

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Busy Bees Montessori Nursery  
Setting Address 77 Park Road  
Rushden  
Northamptonshire  
NN10 0LH

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Magic Nurseries Ltd 04444591

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Magic Nurseries Ltd  
Address 13 Esmond Road  
London  
W4 1JG

## 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

Busy Bees Montessori Nursery was first established in 1991. It opened under new management in 2002. It is located near the centre of Rushden and has its own car park and tarmac outdoor play area. The accommodation consists of two separate buildings. The pre-school is in a purpose built unit that consists of three main teaching rooms. The nursery, with a newly refurbished baby room, operates on the ground floor of the original building, with the after-school club on the first floor. Teaching includes some aspects of the Montessori philosophy in the context of traditional nursery provision.

The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 all year round. There are currently 105 children on roll. They mainly come from Rushden, but several travel in from surrounding villages, and are representative of a range of social and cultural backgrounds. There are 35 funded three-year-olds and 12 funded four-year-olds. The nursery caters for children with special needs, but there are no children currently attending who are learning to speak English as an additional language.

There are 13 members of staff. Ten hold appropriate childcare qualifications, and two are working towards them. The manager is supernumerary. The nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association and is working towards their 'Quality Counts' accreditation scheme. It has already achieved Investors in People status and works closely with the Northamptonshire Early Years Childcare and Development Partnership advisory team.

### How good is the Day Care?

Busy Bees Montessori Nursery offers a good standard of day care to children. It is a well-organised setting where the safety and security of children is paramount at all times. High staff ratios enable children to be supervised appropriately. The key worker system, whereby a named member of staff takes overall responsibility for the care and development of each child, promotes positive relationships throughout the setting. An interesting range of activities is provided for children on a timetabled

basis. However, space and resources are not generally used well enough to provide children, particularly the under three's, with sufficient choice, scope to be active or access to an area in which they can relax or play quietly.

Children's good health is successfully promoted through carefully organised systems of recording and sharing necessary information. Recent improvements have been made in the quality of the menus, and varied and healthy snacks are offered. Children can access drinking water freely.

Staff qualification levels are good and they participate in a varied range of locally available training events. Overall, the staff have a good understanding of behaviour management and child protection issues. Children with special needs are well supported. The amount of information shared with parents has improved recently and the partnership is becoming more effective in promoting the welfare of individual children.

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

Senior staff have attended child protection training and have successfully cascaded relevant information to improve the team's understanding of issues involved.

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

- The comprehensive operational plan enables all aspects of the provision to be monitored effectively and plays a positive role in maintaining the good levels of organisation.
- The safety and supervision of children is good. Access to the premises is monitored successfully, and regular risk assessments contribute to the minimisation of hazards. Well-organised records, such as those concerning medication and special dietary requirements, also promote children's safety.
- Behaviour is managed well. Staff have a very calm approach and maintain a well-ordered environment where children respond well to the high expectations for good behaviour.
- There is a good level of commitment to professional development, and staff continue to attend local training events to keep their knowledge up-to-date.

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

- Organisation of space and resources to provide children, particularly the under three's, with more choice so that their overall welfare and development is promoted more effectively.
- Children's scope to be active, and access to an area in which they can relax or play quietly.

**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
3	Review the daily routines and the organisation of the environment provided for the under three's to better promote their individual needs and welfare.
4	Provide all children with a wider range of opportunities to be active, indoors and outside, as well as free access to quiet, comfortable areas in which to relax or play quietly.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Busy Bees Montessori Nursery provides a welcoming and well-organised learning environment where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff develop positive and friendly relationships with children; behaviour is managed well and appropriate support is offered to any children with additional needs. All staff are involved in planning their own adult led activities and keeping developmental records for the children in their key group. This successfully supports their developing understanding of the Foundation Stage.

Planning ensures a generally balanced curriculum is delivered through a varied range of activities. Successful use of the Montessori equipment supplements children's learning. However, other activities sometimes include too few practical hands-on experiences of real-life objects, particularly in role-play. A very well-ordered atmosphere is maintained, but this is sometimes at the expense of children's ability to work independently or choose their own resources. Children's current achievements are recorded, and shared well with parents, but their individual learning needs and interests are not always fully taken into account during the planning stage.

The partnership with parents and carers has many positive elements and is generally good overall. Useful information is provided about the Foundation Stage and children's daily activities. Strategies are in place to encourage parents to become more involved in their child's learning, and they are generally well-informed about children's current progress but not about plans for their future learning. Leadership and management also has many strong aspects and is generally good overall. The new senior management team are enthusiastic and have clear future development plans. Recently introduced monitoring systems are beginning to be effective, and commitment to improvement is good.

### What is being done well?

- Small groups are used effectively to share stories. This improves the children's understanding and enjoyment of books.
- Each child belongs to a consistent key group with a named member of staff. This successfully promotes their confidence and builds strong relationships between children and the staff.
- Children confidently use a range of interesting equipment in the Montessori room, such as nuts and bolts, padlocks and keys, spoons, tongs and tweezers. The development of their fine manipulative skills is good.

- The high level of commitment to improvement by the senior management team is beginning to have a very positive impact on the quality of the education provision.

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

- The number and range of first hand experiences with real objects and materials for children to explore, investigate, observe, talk about and experiment with.
- The links between observation and assessment and planning to ensure that the activities provided are building on children's interests and supporting their future learning needs.
- The provision for role-play so that children's learning is supported in purposeful and enjoyable contexts.
- The organisation of sessions in order to provide children with more choice between activities and resources, indoors and outside; and to promote their ability to work independently and with greater levels of involvement.

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

not applicable

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children play together cooperatively and successfully learn to take turns. They develop a sense of belonging to the group and the friendly relationships amongst themselves and with the staff are consolidated at circle time. Behaviour is good overall. Children choose between several activities during free play sessions but their concentration, involvement and independence are not always well supported by close timetabling and frequent changes of focus, or by the amount of adult direction.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children talk confidently about what they are doing whilst using Montessori resources. They listen with interest to stories in small groups and learn new words related to their experiences. They learn to recognise their names and some initial letter sounds, but have more limited scope to recognise rhyme or use language imaginatively. Children use the writing table freely, successfully learning the difference between writing and drawing, and they develop confidence with mark-making equipment.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have many useful opportunities to develop their counting skills and they use number names accurately both during play and more formal activities. They begin to do simple calculations using work cards. They work with interest with the varied resources in the Montessori room, which support their learning about size, shape, and weight, but their experiences are not always consolidated through other practical nursery activities.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have regular access to a computer and successfully use several programmes to support their learning. They also have experience of operating a roamer robot. They are introduced to various cultural events. They talk about past experiences at home, and some seasonal changes. Children observe things change whilst cooking, and use tools such as scissors. However, overall they have more limited scope to explore, experiment or construct with objects, tools or materials in their play.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Generally Good

Children develop increasing control as they manipulate an interesting range of small equipment in the Montessori room. They move confidently indoors and outside, and learn to adjust speed whilst running and riding tricycles. However, access to outdoor play and physical activities is time-limited and children have too little scope to experiment with movement or persevere with new skills on large apparatus. They develop a satisfactory awareness of healthy practices.

## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Generally Good

Children take part in some interesting sensory experiences. They explore taste and texture and make pictures with herbs and spices. Free painting activities are regularly available and children learn a range of printing techniques. They learn some songs, join in ring games and tap out simple rhythms. They enjoy drawing but have too little opportunity to use their imaginations through role-play, or represent their own experiences with a widening range of media.

**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**

- Continue to improve the links between planning and observation and assessment to ensure that activities provided are relevant to individual children's interests and learning needs.
- Develop the number and range of first hand experiences with real objects and materials, and give greater consideration to planning the provision for role-play so that it supports children's learning more effectively.
- Continue to review the organisation of sessions in order to provide children with more choice between activities and resources, indoors and outside; and to promote their ability to work independently and with greater levels of involvement.

*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.*