



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY104025

DfES Number:

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/06/2003
Inspector Name	Josephine Mary Williams

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Acorns Day Nursery (Ltd Company)
Setting Address	Cooks Lane Kingstone Hereford HR2 9EY

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Elaine Maureen Campbell
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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

Little Acorns Nursery is situated in the rural village of Kingstone, approximately seven miles outside the city of Hereford. There is a limited bus service to the village. The single storey building has been completely refurbished as a nursery and the rooms available provide accommodation for babies, with a separate sleep room, toddlers and pre-school children. There is a messy play area, purpose built child sized toilets, kitchen, staff facilities and an office.

A breakfast club and after school club also operates at times when the nursery has space. The nursery is registered for a total of 36 children, of these, there are no more than nine babies and 16 school aged children at any one time.

The nursery offers funded places for three and four year olds in receipt of the nursery education grant. The group receives support from a mentor teacher from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership( EYDCP). There are no children attending who speak English as an additional language. Little Acorns are also part of the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative. Children with special needs are made welcome.

There are 12 members of staff who work with the children, plus one supernumery who covers staff breaks and absences. All are qualified and have experience of working with pre-school children and babies. The nursery is open from 07:30 until 18:00 Monday to Friday throughout the year.

### How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Nursery provides good care for children. The premises are safe, clean and well organised. There are clear routines in place, displayed for all to see, which help to make the children feel happy and secure. All the children's individual needs are met including any special dietary requirements.

The staff work well as a team. They are all qualified, experienced childcare workers.

There are clear, concise policies and procedures in place for the care and safety of the children. Several of the staff have first aid training. Staff carry out regular risk assessments to make sure that the premises and equipment are safe and well maintained. All children are cared for according to their individual needs and stages of development, particularly in the baby room where individual sleep patterns and requirements, feeding routines and personal care are respected. The staff have a sound working knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

All rooms have planned activities for the children in their care. These plans are for all age groups and can be seen on display in each room. They include activities and equipment to cover all stages of development. Staff are actively involved with the children at all times, interacting to extend and broaden the child's knowledge and understanding. They listen and encourage children at all times with the result that the children are happy and confident within the setting and with staff.

Relationships with parents are good due to the friendly, professional manner in which this nursery is run. Parents are given a start up pack so that they have a basic information about the setting from the beginning. There is a regular newsletter and parents' evenings to maintain a good working relationship between nursery and home. There is a daily diary which goes back and forth between nursery and home so that all children can have their individual needs met.

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

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

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

- Children's individual needs are well met, constantly monitored, evaluated and information is shared with parents.(Standard 2)
- The operational plan is well used. It has been well organised and has been properly thought out and is clear and concise.(Standard 2)
- There are regular risk assessments to monitor safety of premises and equipment. Any actions identified can be addressed and are quickly put right.(Standard 6)
- There is a strong emphasis on equal opportunities throughout the nursery, particularly for children with special needs.(Standard 9)
- There is an identified special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) who is able to work with children, parents and other professionals to provide individual play/care plans appropriate for individual children.(Standard 10)
- There are excellent systems in place to establish a good working partnership with parents. This is established from the first visit, with a start up pack to regular newsletters and bi-annual parents evenings.(Standard 12)

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

- the child protection policy to include procedures for staff to safeguard themselves from allegations of abuse. (Standard 13)

### 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
13	Ensure the child protection policy includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Little Acorns Day Nursery offers very good quality nursery education.

Children are provided with a stimulating environment and interesting activities which capture their imagination. Effective teaching enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. All staff understand the foundation stage curriculum. Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children are able to communicate well and make relationships with other children and adults. Staff work closely with the children, encouraging conversation, promoting independence and confidence.

The nursery supports children with special needs. An effective system is in place to provide good support, backed up by Individual Learning Plans.

Children's language development is very good, however, some opportunities to practice spontaneous writing are missed. Children have a very good understanding of mathematical concepts and can identify two and three dimensional shapes with ease. The use of addition and subtraction is not always used in daily activities.

A profile of children's development is made on entry into the nursery. Plans and assessments are linked to the foundation stage stepping stones. Key workers carry out ongoing assessment of the children. Children respond well to the staff's high expectations for behaviour. Good staff ratios enable children to learn from the activities and experiences provided. Very good use is made of the outside playspace, garden and local community. Children are taken on visits and members of the community are part of the learning experience.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. The registered person and person in charge work effectively together to manage staff and provision.

The partnership with parents is very good. Information on children's progress is regularly shared with them. Parents say they find staff helpful and approachable.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children show a high level of independence and confidence demonstrated through their involvement in activities and their very good relationship with other children and adults.
- The environment and resources are used creatively and imaginatively to capture the children's interest, enabling them to learn.

- The development of mathematical concepts such as shape, space and measurement are used regularly in daily activities. Children have a very good understanding of two and three dimensional shapes.

**What needs to be improved?**

- Children's opportunities to practise writing in daily activities.
- More use of mathematical concepts of addition and subtraction in everyday activities.

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

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development. Children relate well to each other and adults. They are actively involved in the local community through visits to the local school and visits from people such as the doctor and fire-fighter.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in communication, language and literacy. Children use speech to negotiate and express ideas and imagination. Books are used by children to read, as resources to check facts and to listen to stories being read. Story sacks are used to engage the children's interest. Opportunities for children to write for a variety of purposes using different forms, e.g lists, instructions and stories are not always provided.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in mathematics is very good. Children's concept of shape, space and measurement is very good. Children can compare numbers and count but do not always have opportunities to further develop their learning of addition and subtraction.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. Children learn about living things through practical activities linked to topics such as the visit to the garden centre. Children have planted and tended plants. During circle time children can express their feelings and talk about events in their lives.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in physical development is very good. Children are provided with a wide range of equipment to use inside and outside. They use a range of methods to skillfully propel themselves along on wheeled toys. Staff support children when attempting new activities and personal achievement is recognised and celebrated.

### CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in creative development. Children are able to express themselves and develop ideas independently. They respond to music well, showing a good awareness of sound, rhythm and movement. Different media and materials are used in the planning of a wide range of activities.

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



## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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**

*There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:*

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- staff's knowledge and understanding of how to use and adapt everyday activities and routines to help children further develop their communication, language and literacy skills

*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.*