



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT**

URN 126949

**DfES Number:** 510586

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      27/10/2003  
Inspector Name      Freeda Wildon

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Full Day Care  
Setting Name      Abbeyfields Day Nursery  
Setting Address      32 Whitstable Road  
                                 Faversham  
                                 Kent  
                                 ME13 8DL

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Mr Matthew Howell

## 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

Abbeyfields Day Nursery opened in 1985. It operates from a private dwelling in Faversham, Kent. The nursery has access to two floors, a baby unit in the grounds rooms, an office, toilets, staff room, a kitchen and an outside area. The nursery serves the local area and surrounding towns.

There are currently 63 children on roll. This includes 5 funded four-year-olds and 6 funded three-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions each week. The nursery has experience of working with children who have special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week throughout the year, from 08:00 to 18:00. The nursery offers cooked meals. There are 12 staff working with the children of whom 5 have early years qualifications and all attend short courses. The nursery receives support from a Pre-school Learning Alliance Development worker and a teacher from the Early Years Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Abbeyfields Day Nursery provides good care for children.

Most staff are qualified and experienced, and work well as a team. They generally have a good knowledge and understanding of the National Standards. However, their knowledge of child protection is insecure. Space, staff and resources are well organised to meet the children's needs effectively. The environment is warm and welcoming to children and parents. Clear policies, procedures and records underpin the day-to-day running of the nursery. However, not all of the policies are in line with current guidance.

Premises are safe and clean, there are formal procedures to identify and eliminate hazards. Health and hygiene procedures ensure good practice. Children are offered healthy cooked meals and mealtimes are relaxed social occasions, and staff

promote children's independence.

The quality of staff: child interaction is good, with adults working closely with the children, supporting and extending their play and learning. Children are happy and stimulated, with planned, exciting activities covering all areas of development. Provision for babies and children under two is very good. Staff give excellent attention to meeting babies' individual needs for eating and sleeping and to exchanging information with their parents. They plan activities well to give babies and toddlers interesting sensory experiences. Staff are effectively working with children with special needs. There is an appropriate equal opportunities policy and activities, which support children's knowledge of other culture and tradition. Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in good behaviour and secure, confident children.

Staff work in partnership with parents, and parents are very happy with the standard of care and the exchange of information about their children's development and activities. There is a good settling policy, which, works well in practice.

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

The last inspection was a transitional inspection, so this section is not applicable.

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

- Most staff are qualified and experienced, and work well as a team. Space, staff and resources are well organised to meet the children's needs effectively.
- The environment is warm and welcoming to children and parents. Clear policies, procedures and records underpin the day-to-day running of the nursery.
- Premises are safe and clean, there are formal procedures to identify and eliminate hazards. Health and hygiene procedures ensure good practice. Staff act in children's best interest if they are ill.
- Children are offered healthy cooked meals and meal times are relaxed social occasions, and staff promote children's independence.
- Children are happy and stimulated, with planned, exciting activities covering all areas of development. Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in good behaviour and secure, confident children.
- Provision for babies and children under two is very good. Staff give excellent attention to meeting babies' individual needs for eating and sleeping and to exchanging information with their parents.
- Staff work in partnership with parents, and parents are very happy with the standard of care and exchange of information about their children's development and activities.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

Not applicable.

**What needs to be improved?**

- procedures for uncollected children and child protection
- staff knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

**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	develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
14	ensure that all policies and procedures are in line with current legislations

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Abbeyfields Day Nursery offers generally good quality nursery education. Careful planning and effective teaching helps children to make generally good progress in all areas of learning towards the early learning goals.

The quality of the teaching is generally good. Majority of the staff have a secure knowledge of the foundation stage, which enables them to plan an interesting range of practical activities. Staff have recently adopted a new planning and assessment system, they make observations on children's achievements and are beginning to use these to inform future plans. Staff employ useful open-ended questioning techniques; their skilful and timely interactions support the children's learning in all areas. They maximise on every opportunity to reinforce agreed learning objectives. Occasionally, however the challenges set for more able children are insufficient. There are irregular opportunities for children to participate in organised role-play.

Children generally behave well in response to staff's high expectations and sensitive support. Staff behave as good role models creating a calm and respectful environment for the children to emulate. Children are confident, secure and show consideration to adults and their peers. There are effective systems in place to provide support for children with special needs.

Leadership and management is good. Staff have regular opportunities to update their knowledge and attend further training. The owner regularly reviews the settings strengths and weakness and is developing a more structured system for monitoring the effectiveness of the educational programme; in which all the staff can become involved.

Partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are informed about the foundation stage and the nursery's planned activities. Parents are encouraged to share information with staff who have positive relationships with them and are invited to participate in their child's learning.

### What is being done well?

- Staff consistently use open-ended questions that support and extend children's play and language.
- Staff behave as effective role models. They work well as a team creating a calm and respectful environment. There are effective strategies to manage behaviour and children respond well to staff's high expectations of their behaviour. Children successfully negotiate with one another to resolve minor upsets.
- The owner regularly reviews and monitors the settings own strengths and

weaknesses. Staff have regular opportunities to update their knowledge and attend further training.

- Parents are regularly informed about topics and are invited to participate in their child's learning.

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

- the planning to include the outdoor area;
- the challenges set for more able children;
- the opportunities for children to regularly participate in role-play and use musical instruments.

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

This is the settings first inspection since the new provider took over.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children behave well they play co-operatively and successfully negotiate with one another to resolve their own conflicts. Children are secure and confident, they are able to sit and concentrate and work independently and as part of group. They are motivated and excited about their play and show respect for adults and their peers. Occasionally, the challenges set for more able children are insufficient.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children speak clearly and confidently as they engage both adults and their friends in conversation. They listen attentively to stories and one another. They understand that print carries meaning through the labels in their immediate environment and develop reading skills as they regularly absorb themselves in books. Children develop writing skills at the mark making table and some children attempt to label their own work. However there are few opportunities to write for a variety of purposes.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children develop and consolidate mathematical concepts through the daily routine. They confidently count objects, select specific amounts and are able to use mathematical language in their play. They learn about size, shape and measure through practical activities and are developing early concepts of addition and subtraction through songs and at meal times. There are few opportunities for children to recognise numerals, as part of the routine.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children successfully build and construct with a wide variety of objects, they look at differences, patterns and change, for example change to dough when more flour is added. Children explore and investigate features of the local and wider world. There is a programme of visitors to the nursery. A variety of festivities are celebrated throughout the year and trips to the local community are programmed. There are limited opportunities for children to use programmable toys.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Fine manipulative skills are developed well, children display good skills when cutting, painting, drawing and constructing. They handle tools and equipment confidently and successfully pour their own drinks. Children have access to an attractive outdoor area. Where they move freely; climbing, jumping and skilfully moving around objects to stay safe. This area is not included in the planning. Children learn about personal hygiene and healthy eating through discussion and topic work.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are given opportunities to explore a range of materials, textures colour and shape. They eagerly paint, play with water and collage activities to communicate their thoughts ideas and feelings. There is a balance of child initiated and adult directed activities. Children experience stories and songs as part of the routine. However, there are irregular opportunities for role-play and musical instruments.

**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**

- plan and provide more opportunities for children to regularly experience role-play and musical instruments;
- plan and provide more opportunities for more able children to experience suitable challenges in all area of learning;
- plan and provide more opportunities for the outdoor area.

*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.*