



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 117108

DfES Number: 580715

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/05/2004
Inspector Name	Leoarna Mills - Allen

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name	Curious Kittens Day Nursery (Kings Road)
Setting Address	Kings Road Devonport Plymouth Devon PL1 5QG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Curious Kittens Nursery
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Curious Kittens Nursery
Address	Kings Road Devonport Plymouth Devon PL1 5QG

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

Curious Kittens Day Nursery (Kings Road) has been on its present site since 1996. It serves the students and staff of Plymouth College of Further Education. If places are available they can also be offered to children in the wider community.

The nursery operates from a purpose built building, of which they have exclusive use. There are three main rooms, two offices and associated facilities. There is a secure tarmac area for outside play which includes an area with a safety surface and climbing equipment.

The nursery is open from 08:15 until 17:30, Monday to Friday, for 51 weeks of the year, closing over the Christmas period. Two sessions of funded education are held each day for children aged from three years to five years. Before and after school care is also available for these children, as well as for older children up to the age of 12. Full day care is offered to children under three years.

There are 74 children currently on roll, including 13 funded three-year-olds and 12 funded four-year-olds. Two children are receiving support for special educational needs, and two children attend for whom English is an additional language.

There are 12 staff working a variety of full time and part time hours with the children. The childcare manager holds an NVQ 4 in Management, and an Institute of Management Certificate. Of the remaining staff, four hold a Diploma in Nursery Nursing, and three hold an NNEB. One further member of staff holds an NVQ 3, and another a Teaching Certificate. The remaining two staff members are working towards and NVQ 3.

The nursery receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, and is planning to begin a quality assurance programme with this organisation later in 2004.

How good is the Day Care?

Curious Kittens Day Nursery (Kings Road) provides good quality care for children.

The group is managed by a particularly well-qualified and experienced childcare manager, who has brought together a coherent team of skilled individuals. Support for the ongoing professional development of all who work at the setting results in real and continuous improvements in the quality of the provision. Space, resources and time are well organised to create a stimulating and enjoyable programme for all children, in a safe environment. Record keeping and documentation is in very good order, and underpins the consistent practice of the whole team.

Children are secure in a building where safety is a clear priority, and access to the provision is closely monitored. Children dietary and medical needs are carefully documented and managed. Although access to healthy items during meals and snack is sometimes limited, adults do ensure that children have easy access to drinks. All staff are clear about their child protection responsibilities.

Adults provide a broad range of interesting and educational activities, and use their detailed knowledge of children's abilities to meet individual needs very well. All staff are committed to the principles of equal opportunity for all, working hard to ensure that children with special educational needs or English as an additional language can access the full programme of activities. Behaviour is well managed, with an emphasis on encouraging children's self esteem.

Parents receive good quality information about all aspects of the provision. The key working system ensures that parents access daily information about their child, and all adults make themselves readily available for consultations with parents and carers.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The group is very well organised. Staff ratios are high, support for staff induction and training is effective, and the operational plan works well in practice.
- Adults plan and provide a wide range of learning experiences for all children, including the very youngest.
- Adults have created an inviting and child friendly environment. They make good use of resources to provide a good range of learning experiences, and to ensure that children are safe.
- The security of the provision is closely monitored, thus keeping children safe from unvetted individuals.
- Medical documentation procedures work well to keep children healthy.
- Parents receive good quality information about both the work of the group and their child's progress.

- There are effective child protection procedures in place.

What needs to be improved?

- the regularity with which healthy items are included in snack and meal times.

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
8	Increase the regularity with which children access healthy alternatives at snack and meal times.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Curious Kittens (Kings Road) provides high quality nursery education where children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Well qualified staff plan an interesting programme of activities which is delivered in an environment which has been carefully organised to promote learning. The routine includes a good balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities which are very well presented. Overall resources are used very well, although children do not have easy access to a wide range of books. The management of the session is good and responsive to the needs of the children including those with special educational needs or English as an additional language. Such children are supported very well. Assessment is used effectively by keyworkers to identify the next steps in learning for all children. Children are carefully grouped for activities such as table top games so that such activities are appropriate to their understanding.

The quality of leadership and management is very good. There are effective systems in place for monitoring and reviewing the provision.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are very well informed about the nursery and how it promotes their children's learning. There are very good systems for communicating with parents and sharing children's achievements.

What is being done well?

- Well-planned activities which promote children's learning through both adult-directed and child-initiated play.
- The nursery environment has been carefully organised to promote children's learning in all areas, both in and out of doors.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is promoted very well. They are confident, independent and their behaviour is good.
- Children have very good access to creative resources which they use confidently for their own purposes; for example, spontaneously making road signs to add to a transport frieze.

What needs to be improved?

- children's access to a wide range of books.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Very good progress has been made on addressing the points for consideration raised at the last inspection. Files of children's work and assessments show children's progress towards the early learning goals and enable staff to identify future learning goals. Children's art work is valued and displayed, boosting the children's self-esteem. Staff vary the daily routine to meet the needs of children and all are included. Coverage of the early learning goals is monitored effectively and learning is promoted in all areas.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children show very good independence skills as they pour their own drinks at snack time and competently sweep up spilled rice. Their confidence is developing well as they take responsibility for tasks within the nursery such as feeding the fish and watering the plants. Children are familiar with the nursery routine responding immediately to the gentle shake of a tambourine and their behaviour is very good.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children listen well at circle and story time. They talk confidently and are learning new vocabulary related to nursery themes; for example, 'helicopter'. Children are encouraged to think and they use language well to explain how things work. The nursery is a print rich environment and children are learning to recognise their names and use the book area. However, they do not have easy access to a wide range of books such as information books.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children take part in well-planned activities which develop their understanding of number. Four-year-olds count competently and can identify numbers accurately. Imaginative activities introduce simple calculations. Children learn about mathematical ideas such as size and quantity through meaningful activities and use mathematical language correctly when comparing the size of bubbles and weighing rice.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have very good opportunities to explore and investigate as they experiment with wet sand, bubbles in the water tray and coloured rice. They observe the changes to their tadpoles and plants as they care for them and watch them grow. They are learning about other cultures through activities and celebrations which have been carefully chosen so that they are meaningful to the children; for example, Mothers Day and the kite festival Kodomo-no-hi.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing very good small muscle movements as they confidently use scissors, paint brushes, small rice scoops and other tools showing high levels of skill. They move around the nursery with confidence and control, negotiating obstacles well when riding trikes and scooters. They are learning the importance of keeping healthy as they wash their hands and wear sun hats to go outside.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have excellent opportunities to express their own creative ideas. They freely select from the stimulating range of resources available and staff value their creations and display them prominently for parents. Staff encourage children to try a wide range of creative activities some linked to the theme for example 'painting' the outdoor fence with water and bubble painting. Children enjoy role-play, singing and movement.	

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:
- children's access to range of books

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.