



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 107429

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/05/2003
Inspector Name Alison Joan Wadley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Colour Box Nursery
Setting Address 385 Ivydale Road
Peckham
London
SE15 3ED

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School
Address River House, 16 Northfields
London
SW18 1NN

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

Colour Box Nursery is a privately owned nursery offering full day care for children under 8 years. It opened in 1994 and operates from a three bedroom terraced house with a garden, located in Peckham, South East London. Children under 2 years are accommodated in a separate upstairs baby room.

The nursery caters for a local population that is varied socially, culturally and economically.

The nursery is open 5 days a week, from 8.00am to 6.00pm. Five staff work with the children. Four have early years qualifications. The fifth has relevant experience in children.

The nursery provides for nursery education funded children and currently has 8 funded 3 year olds. There are some children attending who have been identified as having special educational needs and some for whom English is an additional language.

How good is the Day Care?

Colour Box Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. Priority is given to regular staff training and to ensuring that there are qualified or experienced staff working with the different age group of children. The nursery is well equipped and children are encouraged to use their increasing independence to make decisions and choose from activities on offer.

Staff provide a valuable and challenging range of activities, which feed into children's interests and extend their development and learning, from under 2's and throughout the foundation stage curriculum. Space is utilised well to provide accessible resources appropriate to children's developmental stages. The outside area is fully incorporated into the programme of activities.

The nursery provides healthy and well-balanced vegetarian meals and children are

encouraged to be independent and feed themselves where possible. Generally, good attention is given to promoting children's safety, although written procedures for the safe use of some equipment are not in place. Most aspects of hygiene are satisfactory. The location of the nappy changing facility in the baby room is being reassessed.

Colour Box Nursery upholds a strong equal opportunities ethos and provides well for children's individual needs and backgrounds. Staff work well with children who may have special educational needs. They have secure links with outside agencies to support their work. However, staff are not secure in recording observations and using these to plan effectively for children's development. Staff management of children's behaviour is good. They demonstrate a positive attitude when dealing with children's difficulties or frustrations, though the policy documents does not adequately reflect this.

Staff have strong relationships with parents and carers and this supports valuable sharing of information and continuity in the care for the children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider agreed to update the fire safety procedures with particular regard to the evacuation procedure for the younger children accommodated on the first floor. Regular fire drills are now in operation and a fire officer has checked and approved the provision.

The provider had also agreed to provide a fully equipped first aid box and to ensure that records relating to vehicles used to transport children are readily available for inspection. Both actions were met satisfactorily. Additionally the provider had also agreed to ensure that the nappy changing facility located in the baby room and the provision for hand washing comply with environmental health requirements. This matter was still outstanding at the inspection.

What is being done well?

- Strong leadership of the nursery enables regular training to support improvements to the provision and resulting in children being well cared for.
- Staff provide a valuable and challenging range of activities, which feed into children's interests and extend their development and learning.
- The nursery is underpinned by a strong equal opportunities ethos supported by clear policies which are understood by staff and parents and which fosters equal opportunity in the care of children.
- A varied and well balanced diet supports children's healthy development.
- Staff have strong relationships with parents and carers, which supports valuable sharing of information and continuity in the care for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures for ensuring the ongoing safety of staff and children with regard to the use of woodworking tools.
- the location of the nappy changing facility and the arrangements for handwashing
- the policy on behaviour management

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

Std	Recommendation
6	develop written procedural guidelines to support the safe use of tools during woodworking activities.
4	ensure that the location of the nappy changing facility supports the care of the children and meets environmental requirements.
11	develop the existing the behaviour management policy to reflect the positive approach used to promoting acceptable behaviour.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Children at Colour Box Nursery are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals in communication, language and literacy and mathematics and, very good progress in all other areas of learning. The strong leadership from the provider ensures that staff receive regular training to update their knowledge and ongoing communication ensures that they are receptive to improvements at the nursery. The recent appointment of a manager who is present at the nursery aims to further consolidate ongoing improvements to the nursery.

The quality of teaching is generally good with some very good aspects. Children's personal, social and emotional development is a strength of the nursery. Children are confident and well behaved due to staff positive encouragement and support. Staff demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to the children in their care and they have sound understanding of the early learning goals.

The nursery has a good range of play materials and equipment and staff effectively engage children in conversations, questioning them appropriately and feeding their interests and experiences into planning aims. However staff offer too few opportunities for children to use letters and develop their literacy skills and learn to recognise numerals. Additionally, staff do not always use observations of children's individual achievements to focus their planning for children's learning

The nursery is underpinned by a strong equal opportunities policy and children benefit from the priority given to providing for children's individual needs irrespective of their abilities and backgrounds. The nursery has good links with the local authority Early Years Department to support children who have special educational needs.

The partnership with parents is very good. Strong relationships built by staff with parents and carers benefits children's learning and ensures valuable continuity of care between children's home and the nursery.

What is being done well?

- The priority given to personal, social and emotional development promotes children's confidence and independence.
- Children speak clearly and easily engage in conversations with their peers and the adults as a result of staff's consistent interest and support.
- Staff provide an interesting range of activities and a supportive learning environment which benefits children.
- Valuable links with outside professionals support children who may have special educational needs.

- Staff work well with parents and carers to ensure continuity of care and information sharing.

What needs to be improved?

- recording and use of observational notes on children's individual achievements to further support planning aims.
- opportunities for children to recognise numbers and letters and further develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not Applicable-this is the first S122 inspection of the nursery

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children demonstrate confidence in their surrounding and an increasing independence in everyday tasks. Their behaviour is good and reflects staffs positive approach and attention to individual children.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's progress in communication, language and literacy is generally good. Children show growing communication skills. Most are confident clear speakers, who engage easily in conversations with each other and with adults. Children enjoy listening to stories and they join in discussions about the story. Children make marks and some are able to identify letters, but overall there are too few opportunities for them to use letters to develop literacy skills throughout everyday play situations.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's progress in mathematics is generally good with some very good aspects relating to children's exposure to practical mathematics. Children enjoy songs, games and practical activities where they learn to count, measure, weigh, calculate and learn about different shapes and sizes. However, there are too few opportunities for children to learn to recognise numerals throughout everyday play situations.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good, incorporating lots of discussion and projects about children's local community and the wider environment. Children learn about the natural world and features of their local community from daily walks locally. Valuable opportunities exist for children to construct and build and they show increasing confidence using a wide range of objects and tools. Children confidently use everyday technology in their learning.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in physical development is very good. Children show growing awareness of their bodies and health matters, both of which are encouraged well through careful planning of activities and attention to children's dietary requirements.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in creative development is very good. Children express themselves in a range of free play activities and structured musical and artistic work, including role play, painting, drawing, papier mache, singing and movement. Children participate enthusiastically in cultural music and dance activities.

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

- Record and use information gathered from observations of children's achievements to further inform planning for individual children.
- Develop children's literacy and numeracy skills further by providing more opportunities for them to learn to recognise letters and numbers

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.