



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 118621

DfES Number: 532753

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/08/2004
Inspector Name	Mary Holt

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	My Little Angels Day Nursery
Setting Address	Gardiners Corner Aveley Road Upminster Essex RM14 2TN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Ms Sonia Lampitt
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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

My Little Angels Day Nursery opened in October 2000. It operates from a one storey building situated on the edge of a residential area of Corbets Tey. The setting serves the local and surrounding area.

There are currently 24 children on roll. This includes 8 funded three-year-olds and 5 funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens Monday to Friday each week, all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00.

There are five members of staff working with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 2 or 3. There are two staff who are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

My Little Angels Day Nursery provides good quality care for children.

The premises are safe and well maintained to a good standard; there is sufficient play space available for children to rest and play. Children have access to a variety of age appropriate play materials, equipment and activities, which promotes their overall development and learning in all areas. However, there are limited opportunities for children to access play resources that reflect positive images of families from a variety of different backgrounds, lifestyles and abilities. All required records and documentation is in place, fully maintained and securely stored.

Most areas of health and safety are in place; however, written parental permission has not been obtained to apply sun screen to children before playing in the garden,

and the first aid box is not fully stocked with the required items. There are several members of staff available who have undertaken first aid training; however, future training needs to be extended to meet the current length of training required. Children are offered drinks, snacks and a main cooked meal that are healthy and well balanced. A written child protection procedure is in place, which all members of staff are familiar with.

Staff work very well together as a team, they are clear about their role, responsibilities and duties and are fully aware of the individual needs of children in their care. Management of children's behaviour is very positive, and undertaken in an appropriate and effective manner.

Written information regarding the setting is provided, and available for parents and staff. There is an effective system in place to share information and provide regular feedback for parents regarding their child's care, development and progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection three actions were made, regarding fire safety, ensuring that electrical appliances are annually serviced, and providing a written special educational needs policy.

The setting now; records all fire drills in a log book, fire fighting equipment is annually serviced as required, electrical appliances are now annually serviced by an appropriate company, and a written special educational needs policy has been devised and made available to parents and staff.

What is being done well?

- Has established and maintained a good working relationship with children. They respond to children's individual needs in a warm, and caring manner.
- Children are offered a good, varied and well balanced diet that takes into consideration children's individual dietary needs.
- Has demonstrated a commitment to developing and maintaining a good working relationship with parents.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, written agreement with parents to apply sun screen,
- the contents of the first aid box,
- staff's first aid training to meet the required 12 hours in length,
- access to play materials that reflect the wider world.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
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<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
7	obtain prior written agreement from parents before applying sun screen to children,
7	ensure that the first aid box and its contents comply with Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations, and, ensure that staffs First Aid training is extended to a minimum of 12 hours as required,
9	ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that reflect positive images of the wider world..

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

How effective is the nursery education?

My Little Angels Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education overall which enables the children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Children behave very well and staff have good relationships with children. Staff have a sound knowledge of the stepping stones and understand what the children learn from them. Staff are skilled at extending children's learning and thinking through good open questioning. There are defined areas of play and resources are invitingly displayed. Staff plan well and assess the children's learning against the stepping stones and early learning goals and use this information effectively to help children move onto the next stage of learning. However planning is sometimes too structured and does not always encourage children to develop their independence skills through selecting resources themselves and imagination through free play.

The leadership and management of the nursery is generally good. Staff are committed to improving the care and education for children, the manager and staff have worked hard in devising effective individual assessments and plans for children. Although, the planning of activities is too rigorous and sometimes time for activities is too short which could hinder children's learning particularly in aspects of creative development. Staff work very well together and are clear about their individual roles and responsibilities.

The nursery has generally good partnership with parents. Information about the six areas of learning are displayed on the notice board and further information regarding individual areas are given to parents in newsletters. Parents have copies of policies and procedures. Parents are not always clear about topics, parents involvement in children's learning could be further developed.

What is being done well?

- Staff have developed good relationships with children and know them well. They interact with children in a warm, caring, sensitive manner and ensure all children are respected and included in all activities. Children are confident and interact with staff with ease.
- Staff encourage good behaviour, by setting good examples and being consistent. They praise children and encourage children to share and be kind to one another. Children are familiar with daily routines and expectations of staff.
- Children benefit from effective and challenging questions from staff which enables their thinking and learning to be extended. Staff are supportive to each other and work well as a team.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff use information gained from individual assessments effectively to help children move onto the next stage of learning. |
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What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● opportunities for children to develop their independence skills, for example selecting resources and for themselves● planning of activities to enable children to have effective opportunities to participate in role play and free creative play● opportunities for children to write for a variety of purposes during play

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable as this is the first education inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's confidence and self esteem are built up by staff who know the children well, staff are caring and sensitive to children. Some activities are very adult directed and this limits opportunities for children to have personal independence. Staff have clear expectations of children and children behave very well.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are at ease when speaking in familiar groups, and are able to express their thoughts and feelings. Children's lack of opportunities to write in practical situations for a variety of purposes limits their development. Children can recognise their own names, some are forming recognisable letters and are beginning to write their own name.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children benefit from good individual support to help them count to 10 and to recognise shapes, colours and sizes. Children are able to problem solve for themselves for example when trying to complete puzzles. Practical opportunities to extend older and more able children's knowledge of addition and subtraction is limited. Children have opportunities to recognise and make patterns during various activities, when playing with sand.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Planned activities help children notice changes that occur, for example when children mixed water with custard powder. Children have good opportunities to learn about the natural world they live in, children visit the stables on a regular basis and have visits from people in the community such as the forest ranger. However, opportunities to encourage children to find about other peoples knowledge of other cultures and beliefs is not fully exploited.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are using a range of small equipment with increasing control for example pencils and brushes. Children have good opportunities to find out about the importance of staying healthy, discussing what happens when the body gets hot and why we need sun cream and hats. Opportunities for children to travel around, over and through, climb and balance is not sufficiently exploited.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children have lots of opportunities to explore colour, shape, space, texture and form in two and three dimensions through a variety of structured activities. They respond enthusiastically to what they see, hear, smell and touch. Children have opportunities for use their imagination in role play and enjoyed dressing up. However,these activities are cut short due to another planned activity, this limits opportunities for children to explore their own thoughts and feelings imaginatively.	

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

- develop the planning of activities to enable children to have effective opportunities to participate in role play and free creative activities
- opportunities for children to develop their independence skills
- increase opportunities and children's awareness of the different purposes of writing

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.