



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 108404

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	13/09/2004
Inspector Name	Margaret Moffat

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Fingers Montessori School
Setting Address	St. Stephens School Rooms, Vansittart Road Windsor Berkshire SL4 5EA

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Ms Suzanne Shaw
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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. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

### Information about the setting

Little Fingers Montessori School is privately owned and opened in January 1996. It operates from St Stephen's School Rooms in Windsor. The school serves the local area and supports the Montessori method of teaching.

There are currently 28 children on roll. This includes 10 funded three year olds and 5 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. At the time of inspection, there were no children with special educational needs or who spoke English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 12:15.

Five staff work with the children and over half have early years qualifications to level 2 and 3. The manager is a trained Montessori teacher. Three members of staff have current first aid certificates. The group receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

Little Fingers Montessori School provides good quality care for the children. Staff work well as a team and good ratios of staff ensure children are well cared for. Staff are committed to on going training. They provide a warm and welcoming environment for children and their families. Most consents and relevant paperwork are in place.

Staff have a good understanding of health and safety issues and suitable precautions are taken to safeguard the children. Most fire safety precautions are in place. Good hygiene routines are in place and staff encourage the children to develop independence in their personal care. Staff are aware of children's individual needs and cater for these appropriately. Staff are aware of the need to protect children and procedures to follow if concerned about a child.

Staff form good relationships with the children. They spend time talking and playing with them helping them to learn. There is a good range of age appropriate toys and equipment easily accessible to the children. Staff use these effectively to support children's development. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and the children behave well and respond to guidance and praise offered by staff.

There are effective procedures in place to keep parents informed about the provision and their children. Staff form good relationships with the parents and are available at the beginning and end of sessions to give verbal feedback if required. Parents report they are happy with the care on offer.

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

Not applicable

**What is being done well?**

- Staff form good relationships with the children and know them well. They spend time talking and playing with the children, asking appropriate questions to encourage their thinking and supporting them in activities on offer. The children are happy and content.
- Staff provide a warm and welcoming environment for the children and their families. Space is well organised and children are able to move around comfortably in the designated areas. There is a good selection of toys and resources, which support children in all areas of learning. Good provision is available for children to be involved in indoor physical activities and outings to local areas, as there is no access to an outdoor play area.
- There are effective procedures in place to manage children's behaviour. The children behave well and are polite.
- Staff form good relationships with parents. They share information regularly with parents and parents feel well informed about their children's progress and the provision

**What needs to be improved?**

- risk assessment, to ensure written plans identify action to be taken to minimize identified risks
- documentation, to ensure parental consent is obtained for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice
- fire safety, to ensure awareness of communal evacuation procedures and that fire detection equipment is sufficient.

**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
14	update emergency medical treatment and risk assessment records.

## **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.*