



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 103172

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/06/2003
Inspector Name	Linda Janet Chauveau

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Oasis Childcare Centre (Day Nursery)
Setting Address	Lower Quarters Ludgvan Penzance Cornwall TR20 8EX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of u/a
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	u/a
Address	u/a , u/a

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

Oasis Childcare Centre opened in 1996 . This management committee run group operates from a dual site at Ludgvan School, Ludgvan, near Penzance. The premises consist of a purpose built unit, the school hall and classrooms 1 and 5. The childcare centre serves a wide local area .

The centre is registered to provide full day care for up to 40 children aged from 3 to 8 years old. Children aged over 8 years also attend before and after school and during the school holidays. There are currently 80 children from 3 to 8 years on roll. This includes 26 funded three year olds and 20 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Currently three children have special needs and all children who attend the group have English as their first language.

The group opens for up to six days a week throughout the year . Sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00, Monday to Friday, and from 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays.

Eleven part time staff work with the children, plus a full time administrative manager. Eight have early years qualifications, three staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Oasis Childcare Centre provides good care for children aged three to eight years.

The group is well led by an experienced and qualified staff team. New staff need to undergo vetting and induction procedures to ensure that they are suitable and will work consistently within the setting. Generally staffing ratios exceed requirements, enabling good levels of interaction with children to take place. Space and resources within the group are well organised and children can choose from a wide range of activities. The office space is not well organised to allow office manager and staff easy access to paperwork. Policies and procedures are mostly comprehensive and

understood by staff. However the complaints procedure needs amending.

Safety issues are given a high priority in the group. Staff ensure that children are safe at all times, indoors and out, by following the group's health and safety procedures. They encourage children to learn about personal hygiene and healthy eating. Staff make sure that they have enough information about children to look after them well, they include children with special needs in all activities.

Staff plan an interesting and varied programme of activities to cover all areas of learning. Children being cared for out of school hours are encouraged to contribute towards planning their own topics. Staff are particularly skilful at understanding and developing children's individual needs especially their social abilities and confidence. Children are independent and able to manage their own behaviour well in small groups.

Oasis' partnership with parents is good. The open system of communication plus access to developmental records ensures that parents are well informed by staff about their children's progress. The management committee needs to ensure that parents are kept fully informed about the policies and procedures in place to run the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Following action raised at the last inspection Oasis has improved its policies in relation to child protection, behaviour management and health and safety. This has improved its operational procedures and information shared with parents. The group still need to make Ofsted's contact details available as part of their complaints procedure and to consolidate their methods of sharing details of their operational policies and procedures with parents.

What is being done well?

- Provision for all children is good. Well qualified staff plan varied activities to enable children to develop self confidence and social skills. They are able to offer children many interesting and stimulating play opportunities by using the wide range of well cared for resources available. Children being cared for out of school hours are able to plan their own activities.
- Oasis is warm and welcoming to children and parents. The centre is laid out well to make constructive use of space available. Children are able to move freely between activities. There is a secure, well resourced outside play area.
- There are comprehensive health and safety policies. Staff are pro-active in ensuring that children's safety is of high priority at all times.
- There are positive relationships with parents. Communication is open and effective, with regular newsletters provided. Staff are able to obtain good information from parents to ensure that quality care is provided. Parents are encouraged to contribute to children's developmental records.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements for providing evidence to demonstrate that all staff, volunteers and committee members have undergone the appropriate appointment and vetting procedures
- the definition of the role and responsibilities of staff who deputise for administrative manager.
- the system for sharing child protection procedures with parents.

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
1	ensure that evidence is available to show that all staff, committee and volunteers have undergone suitable and effective appointment and vetting procedures.
2	ensure that nominated deputy has a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities
13	ensure that parents are made clearly aware of all of the group's operational policies and procedures including child protection.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Oasis Childcare Centre is providing nursery education which is of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals in communication, personal, social and emotional, language and literacy, mathematics and physical development. Progress is very good in knowledge and understanding of the world and creative development.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan well to offer enjoyable opportunities to help children make progress in all areas of learning. They have developed good systems to monitor children's progress, but do not use these effectively to identify and plan to meet the needs of younger children. Staff use time and resources well and are knowledgeable and confident in the delivery of the early learning goals. They are able to diversify when occasions arise, so that children may learn from unexpected opportunities and events. All children are sufficiently challenged. However, staff do not always organise the delivery of activities for the younger children, to ensure that they benefit fully. Management of the behaviour of these children is sometimes poor and although the system for key workers is in place and working well for older children, there are inconsistencies in the monitoring and planning for younger children's progress.

The leadership and management of the setting is experiencing some change at the present time, this has resulted in difficulty in locating some documentation relating to younger children. However, the staff work well together and are a strong team. They are well supported by the school and welcome support from the early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). Staff are committed to ensuring that high standards are achieved and they regularly attend appropriate training courses.

Staff have effective systems in place which they use well to share good levels of information with parents. Parents are well informed and actively involved in their child's learning.

What is being done well?

- Staff and children have strong, trusting relationships. Children are confident and independent. They have developed a good understanding of mathematics and enjoy good opportunities to explore growth and to care for living things. They use a wide range of natural materials to create models, in order to support their understanding of their environment. They are developing a good understanding of other cultures and beliefs. Children are skillful in their use of tools and are well coordinated, they are confident to climb and balance. They enjoy good opportunities to express their feelings and ideas creatively.

What needs to be improved?

- consistency in the use of systems to monitor and plan to meet children's differing needs, through future planned activities.
- use of books for reference.
- opportunities for younger children to practice writing skills through free play.
- opportunities for all children to explore mathematics through free play.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress made since the last inspection has been generally good. Staff now plan a broad and balanced range of activities, which are both adult led and child initiated. Systems have been developed and introduced with which to monitor and assess children's progress, however these are used inconsistently for younger children in order to plan to meet their differing needs through future planned activities. Children now have regular use of a good range of technological equipment.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have formed strong, trusting relationships with staff and show good levels of confidence and independence. Most children display good levels of behaviour, however some younger children are disruptive during free play and small group activity.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children communicate and negotiate well, listening attentively and responding appropriately. They have developed a good range of vocabulary. Children are able to use writing skills with purpose and they enjoy books, although they do not benefit from regular use of books for reference.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children enjoy a good range of planned mathematical activity, which sufficiently challenges all children. They have developed a good understanding of shape, size and position and older children are starting to add and subtract. Children do not have sufficient opportunities to explore mathematics through free play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy a wide range of opportunities to explore growth and are actively involved in the care of living things. They use a variety of different materials to create models, which reflect a good understanding of their environment and they have opportunities to explore the cultures and beliefs of others, through the use of a good range of resources and carefully planned activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children move purposefully and with confidence both indoors and out, demonstrating good levels of control and coordination. They have developed a good understanding of health and hygiene. They are skilful in their use of tools.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use a wide range of interesting mediums with imagination and skill, in order to express their individual ideas creatively.

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

- ensure that effective and consistent systems to monitor children's progress are implemented, in order to meet their individual needs through future planned activities.
- offer younger children opportunities to develop their writing skills and all children to develop their mathematical understanding, through free play activities.
- provide opportunities for children to use books for reference.

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.