



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY236797

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/05/2004
Inspector Name Anita Bartram

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Smiles Montessori Pre School
Setting Address Unit One, The Fairway
Bush Fair
Harlow
Essex
CM18 6LY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Miss Julia Karen Almond

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

Smiles Montessori Pre-school opened in 2003. It operates from a suite of rooms, within a unit in a light industrial area of Bush Fair in Harlow. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 77 children from 3 months to 5 years on roll. This includes 17 funded three year olds and 4 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports a small number of children who have special needs or who have English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week all year. Morning sessions are from 09.00 until 12.00. Afternoon sessions are from 13.00 until 16.00. There are additional hours from 08.00 until 09.00 and 16.00 until 18.00 to provide all day hours or longer sessions.

Ten staff work with the children. All the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

Smiles Montessori Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children.

The organisation of the setting is good and staff are deployed effectively to work directly with the children. Staff ensure a warm and welcoming environment by displaying children's work, notices and posters. There is a wide and stimulating range of resources that are planned well to cover all areas of the children's learning. Most documentation is in place.

The staff provide a secure environment for the children. All staff are aware of the children's safety and measures are in place to minimise hazards to children. All staff have current first aid certificates. Children are able to try a variety of nutritious and healthy foods at snack and meal times. All staff are appropriately aware of their child protection responsibilities.

Staff provide a caring environment where children's individual needs are generally considered well. Staff follow good working practices to meet the specific needs of children with special educational needs. There is an effective range of resources to promote positive images of diversity to children. Staff have plans in place to provide

children with meaningful activities to cover the early learning goals. Children play purposefully and co-operatively. Overall children's behaviour is good and they appreciate right from wrong. Most staff have an understanding of the reasons behind children's unwanted behaviour.

Staff are available to speak with parents at either end of the day. Parents are welcomed into the group to settle their children and are kept informed of the children's activities through newsletters and open evenings.

What has improved since the last inspection?

n/a

What is being done well?

- There is a wide and stimulating range of toys in all four rooms which are fully accessible to children. Good use is made of wall displays to show children how much staff value their work, and the environment is clean and well maintained. Staff have worked hard to enhance the limited outdoor play space.
- The manager has an effective induction process established. Staff have to complete comprehensive health and safety questionnaires when they begin working in the group, and the manager ensures their working knowledge of health and safety is satisfactory.
- The manager is supernumery and takes an active role in developing staff practice. Staff are observed whilst working with the children and given constructive feedback. This has a positive impact on the quality of care staff provide for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures to follow in the event of a child being lost on the premises, the procedure that would be follow should a child protection allegation be made against a member of staff and the procedure for parents to follow should they have an unresolved complaint against the group
- some staff's appreciation of young children's development and how this should influence their expectations of children's behaviour and levels of concentration particularly during larger group times
- the provision of adult size chairs in the baby room, to enable staff to feed babies at their own height and therefore be able to use meal times to interact more fully with the babies

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 |
|-----|--|
| 3 | Increase the staff's appreciation of young children's development and how this should influence their expectations of children's behaviour and levels of concentration particularly during larger group times. |
| 5 | Provide some adult size chairs in the baby room, to enable staff to feed babies at their own height and therefore be able to use meal times to interact more fully with the babies |
| 14 | Update the procedures to be followed in the event of; a child going missing, a child protection allegation against a member of staff and the procedure for parents to follow should they wish to complain to Ofsted. |

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.