



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113383

DfES Number: 549018

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/09/2004
Inspector Name Alison Jane Kaplonek

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Ladybird Montessori Nursery Ltd
Setting Address Village Hall
Walton Lane, Bosham
Chichester
West Sussex
PO18 8QF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ladybird Montessori Nursery 4340837

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ladybird Montessori Nursery
Address Village Hall
Walton Lane
Bosham
Hants
PO18 8QF

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

Ladybird Montessori opened in 1999. It operates in the village hall in Bosham, West Sussex and serves the surrounding area.

There are currently 21 children on roll. This includes 9 funded 3 year olds and no funded 4 year olds at present. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery are able to provide support for children with special needs and for those who have English as an additional language.

The nursery have access to a large community outdoor area to the rear of the property. The registration includes a holiday play scheme which operates for a few days each year to enable older siblings to attend.

The nursery school operates from 9:00- 15:00 on week days during term time only.

One full-time, three part-time and two bank staff work with the children. Three have Montessori qualifications. The nursery school offers Montessori teaching and curriculum and includes French, ballet and music. The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Ladybird Montessori Nursery provides good quality care for children.

Staff provide a calm and welcoming environment. They maintain good adult to child ratios and provide good levels of support for the children. Staff value all children treating them with concern and respect. They ensure that children are kept safe and make good use of the available space. The nursery provides a good selection of toys and equipment which meet the needs of all the children. Staff are aware of the need for confidentiality and keep records relating to children in a safe and secure manner. The majority of documentation is correctly maintained.

The nursery has procedures in place for the safe evacuation of children in the event of an emergency and practices regular fire drills with all staff and children. Staff

supervise the children effectively and carry out regular risk assessments. They provide the children with a varied and nutritious range of snacks and are aware of any children who may have allergies or dietary needs. Staff do not ensure that all children have washed their hands prior to eating. Procedures to support children with special needs and to identify child protection issues are good. Staff work closely with other professionals to provide any additional support needed.

Staff provide an excellent range of activities for all children, which support their learning in all areas. Activities are planned, interesting and varied and provide a rich, child centred environment for all ages. Staff value the children and act as good role models. They encourage good behaviour according to the children's stage of development.

Parents have access to folders of information, including policies, procedures and information about the Montessori approach to education. They are kept well informed about their children's care and education and find staff very helpful and approachable.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The nursery provides a broad range of activities which support children in all areas of learning. Staff interact well with the children and are interested in what they say and do. Toys and resources are easily accessible by all children, providing a rich child centred environment.
- The nursery make good use of the space available and children have access to toys, furniture and equipment which support their needs. Resources are clearly labelled and displayed to enable children to make independent choices.
- Parents are kept well informed about the setting through folders of policies and procedures, lists of topics and activities and through regular updates in newsletters and information boards. They are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning.
- Staff and management are vigilant about children's safety and carry out regular risk assessments on the premises and resources. They monitor children closely whilst still allowing them the freedom to move around the environment and choose activities. Fire evacuation is practiced regularly with staff and children.
- Staff value all children and have a sound knowledge of their individual needs. Those children with special needs or English as an additional language have good support. Staff work closely with other professionals to protect and support all children.

What needs to be improved?

- the registration system to show clearly when children are in the nursery and their times of arrival and departure.
- the hand washing procedure for children prior to eating.

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
2	Ensure the registration system shows clearly which children are in the nursery and their times of arrival and departure.
7	Ensure a hand washing procedure is in place for all children before they eat.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Ladybird Montessori Nursery School provides acceptable nursery education which is of a high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning. They enjoy their learning and are able to select from the wide range of resources, materials and activities which are provided, initiating their own play .

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and of how young children learn. They are all involved in observing and assessing children and plan an environment which is interesting and challenging for all. They are in the process of implementing an assessment system which is manageable and easy for parents to understand. They are deployed well and provide very good support for children with special needs or for whom English is an additional language. Staff provide an environment where children have a wide choice of practical activities, can set their own challenges and are learning through play.

Leadership and management is very good. Staff are effective in evaluating and monitoring the provision for nursery education. The lead practitioner is able to accurately identify the strengths and weaknesses of the setting and management and staff are committed to improving the care and education for all children. They work well as a team, constantly striving to improve their practice.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are provided with a wide range of information about the setting and the provision for nursery education, including information about the Montessori approach to teaching. They are kept well informed of their children's progress and activities through regular reports, parents evenings and daily discussion with staff. They are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning both at school and at home.

What is being done well?

- An excellent range of resources. materials and competent teaching ensures that children are making very good progress in all areas of learning.
- A very good range of stimulating practical activities helps children to learn through play and there is a good balance of adult and child initiated activities. Children are grouped appropriately to support them in their learning.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. They have high levels of self-esteem and confidence and are able to express their needs and feelings. They want to learn and are excited to take part in the extensive range of activities which are available. Staff set clear guidelines for expectations of behaviour and as a consequence children behave well.

- There is an excellent partnership with parents and carers. They are kept well informed about the setting and their children's progress through regular contact with staff and by attending information sessions held at the nursery. They find staff very approachable and feel involved in their children's learning both at the nursery and at home.
- The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. Staff and management work well as a team to improve the care and education for all children. They successfully monitor the provision for nursery education and are constantly striving to improve their practice.

What needs to be improved?

- the further development of the assessment system ensuring that the next steps in children's learning continue to be identified.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery were asked to provide activities which allowed children to explore their local environment and use a wider selection of technological resources to support their learning. They were asked to increase the resources for imaginative play and incorporate detailed information of what children are expected to learn and achieve in physical activities.

Very good progress has been made in all areas. Children now take part in nature walks around the local playing field to explore their local environment. They use a small computer, story tape machine, magnets and magnifying glasses with confidence, and have easy access to dressing -up clothes to extend their imaginative play. Staff have included physical development in their planning and set up charts to assist them in the assessment of children's achievements relating to large physical movement.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children develop good relationships with each other and adults. They are well behaved and they co-operate well, sharing and taking turns. Children are keen to learn and take part in the extensive range of activities provided. They have high levels of confidence and self-esteem and are able to express their needs and feelings. Children know right from wrong and they understand the rules of the nursery.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers. They converse easily with adults and each other. They use language to initiate and organise their play. Children listen to and enjoy stories and rhymes in small and large groups. They are beginning to develop their writing skills during their play. Some children are able to write their names. Children recognise the sounds and shapes of letters and words which have meaning for them e.g. names. They engage in a wide range of activities requiring hand-eye co-ordination.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently to 8. They are beginning to recognise numbers during their play. Children sort and order items by size, weight and length and are beginning to use the mathematical language involved. Children recognise patterns. They learn about shape, size and quantity through practical activities. Some are able to name shapes in 2D and 3D. Children are beginning to use their knowledge of numbers to solve simple number problems.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are curious. They enjoy finding out about living things in the environment and making observations. Children design and build confidently using a wide range of materials and tools. They talk about their environment, families and events in their lives and are beginning to gain an awareness of the cultures and beliefs of others. They know how to operate some simple equipment.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move with confidence and increasing control and co-ordination. They show an awareness of space when moving around their environment both indoors and out and are beginning to show an awareness of a range of healthy practices. Children use a wide range of equipment, tools and materials safely.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children respond to what they see, hear, smell, touch and feel in a variety of ways. They use all their senses to explore and respond to colour, texture, shape and form. Children use their imaginations well in art, role play, stories and when initiating their own play. They sing simple songs from memory and are able to create their own ideas in art, when using dough and when model making.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to implementing the following: the further development of the assessment system, ensuring that the next steps in children's learning continue to be identified.

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.