



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 137827

DfES Number: 532169

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 27/01/2005

Inspector Name Kim Mundy

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care

Setting Name Neasden Montessori School

Setting Address St. Catherines Church Hall
St. Catherines Church, Dudden Hill Lane
London
NW2 7RX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Jayasree Sen Gupta

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

Neasden Montessori School is run by Jayasree Sen Gupta. It opened in 1985 and operates from a church hall located in Neasden. A maximum of 35 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 09:30 to 15:00 during school term time. All children have access to a secure outdoor play area.

There are currently 43 children on roll. Of these, 27 children receive funding for nursery education. The setting currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. None of the children currently attending have special educational needs.

The manager and five staff work directly with the children. Four staff hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The school follows Montessori and traditional teaching methods.

How good is the Day Care?

Neasden Montessori School provide a satisfactory standard of care for children.

The manager is experienced and overall the setting is well organised. The staff team are conscientious and enthusiastic. The atmosphere of the nursery is very friendly, relaxed and welcoming. Relevant paperwork is in place. However, some lack necessary detail, for example, staffs hours of attendance: the complaint procedure; and child protection statement. There is a range of suitable furniture and equipment to meet the children's needs.

The premises are clean and well maintained. The temperature of the play hall requires monitoring. Suitable health and safety policies and procedures are in place although, risk assessments: medicine administration; and accident records require further details. Staff promote good health and hygiene practises through daily routines. There is a special educational needs coordinator at the setting who has

attended relevant training. The staff take good care of the children and they meet their individual needs effectively.

Staff plan a wide range of activities to help children to make good progress in all areas of their development. There is a good range of Montessori equipment, which children are able to access themselves. Children are happy, interested and motivated to learn. Suitable behaviour management strategies are in place. Staff offer lots of praise and encouragement and the children are well behaved.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents are able to liaise with the member of staff who has key responsibility for their child's care and development on a daily basis. Good information is available to parents about the settings policies and procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the previous inspection the setting was required to meet adult: child ratios and this has been addressed appropriately. The Fire Safety Officer has visited the premises and suitable fire exit signs are now displayed. The sick child policy: child protection procedure; and special educational needs policy have been devised and implemented. This improves the safety for the children and supports working in partnership with parents.

The daily record of staffs attendance and suitable risk assessments have not been fully implemented.

What is being done well?

- This setting is well organised and the experienced staff team provide good care of the children.
- There is a good range of resources and activities to support all areas of children's learning and development.
- The environment is warm and welcoming. The play room is attractively set out and posters are displayed.
- Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment.
- Staff manage children's behaviour appropriately according to their age and level of understanding.

What needs to be improved?

- the recording of staff and visitors hours of attendance
- the complaint procedure to include contact details for Ofsted and the Disability Rights Commission
- the child protection statement to include Ofsted details as the regulator
- the risk assessment to include the date they are carried out and an action plan with timescales

- the record keeping for medication to include the time medicine is actually given and staffs signature
- the accident book entries to be signed by staff
- the temperature of the play hall to be monitored and appropriately maintained.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
2	Keep a record of staff and visitors hours of attendance.
4	Monitor the temperature of the play hall to ensure that it is maintained appropriately.
6	Keep a record of risk assessments carried out and include an action plan with timescales to minimise risks.
7	Record the actual time that medication is administered and ensure that staff sign the medicine and accident book consistently.
12	Include the contact details for Ofsted and the Disability Rights Commission in the complaint procedure.
13	Include Ofsted details as the regulator in the child protection statement.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Neasden Montessori provides good quality nursery education where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good, which promotes children's learning well towards the early learning goals. Staffs' knowledge of the early learning goals helps them to plan and teach a good range of practical activities.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff work well as a team and have established very good relationships with children, parents and carers. Staff plan a wide range of activities for children. Resources are of good quality and well organised to encourage children's independence. However, some art and craft activities do not sufficiently allow children to select and explore their own ideas.

The staff manage the children very well. Children are able to take turns, work as part of a group and respond to situations in the environment.

The leadership and management of the group is generally good. The manager works directly with the children and provide a positive role model for staff. The team work well to provide stimulating learning experiences for the children. The manager and staff have a good working knowledge of the early learning goals. However, observations do not effectively demonstrate how this enables children to make the next steps in their individual learning.

Partnership with parents is good and contributes positively to the children's progress in learning, whereby they are able to support their children at home. Comments from parents are positive.

What is being done well?

- Staff work well as a team and the good relationships they develop with children creates a positive learning environment.
- Children are helped to develop mathematical understanding through a range of practical and meaningful activities.
- Staff have a good working knowledge of the early learning goals. They plan activities to promote children's learning in all areas of the learning goals.
- Staff make very good use of the accommodation and resources. This encourages the children to develop their independence and to support their learning.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to use their imagination and express themselves through role play, select materials and be spontaneously creative
- the children's assessment to show clearly the progress children make
- the availability of the curriculum to parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children are confident, keen to learn and focused in activities. They develop friendships with other children and have opportunities to develop their independence. Children are generally well behaved and encouraged to take turns and share. The organisation of resources enables children to easily select equipment to work independently or in groups.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to explore language during discussion times and during practical activities. They speak confidently in familiar groups and are beginning to express their views. Children use phonics confidently and match sound to letters. Some show signs of beginning to write their names and are able to recognise letters of the alphabet. They have opportunities to link sounds to letters and their vocabulary is extended well.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have fun learning about shapes, size, space and position in practical activities. They count confidently from one to ten, they use mathematical language confidently and accurately to describe colour, shape and size. There is a good selection of resources and well planned mathematical activities available to support the children in this area of learning.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are provided with good opportunities to find out about their environment and the natural world, for example, the life cycle of a butterfly. Through good use of photographs, children are able to recall past events. There are limited opportunities for children to use programmable toys and equipment. Awareness of customs and cultures is gained through planned projects and activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have good opportunities to move around confidently with increasing control and show an awareness of space. Children have good hand and eye coordination, dexterity and manipulative skills. They are learning about staying healthy through the daily routine. However, they have limited opportunities to learn about healthy living, such as what happens to their bodies, teeth hygiene and healthy eating.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have the opportunity to experience a range of art and craft activities using a variety of materials although opportunities to experiment are sometimes limited. Children enjoy singing in large groups and most confidently sing on their own. There are limited opportunities for children to use their imagination and express themselves through role play activities.

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

- increase children's opportunities to use their imagination and express themselves through role play, select materials and be spontaneously creative
- improve records to show clearly the progress children make
- provide parents with information on the curriculum.

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.