



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 254650

DfES Number: 517986

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	06/01/2004
Inspector Name	Helen Clark

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Vernon Park Day Nursery
Setting Address	92 Arnold Road Nottingham Nottinghamshire NG6 0DZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mr Anthony George Budden
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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 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

Vernon Park Day Nursery opened in 1987. It is one of a small chain of privately owned day nurseries around Nottinghamshire. It operates from a large detached property and is situated in the Old Basford area of Nottingham. The children are cared for in base rooms on the ground floor with a separate unit for the pre-school children. There is a fully enclosed outdoor area. The nursery serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 46 children from nought to eight years on roll. This includes 10 funded 3-year-olds and 5 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery provides support for children with special needs and English as an additional language. They also provide out of school care for school age children.

The nursery opens five days a week throughout the year, excluding bank holidays. Sessions are from 07:30 until 18:00.

There are ten staff that work with the children. Half have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Other staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher advisor from the Nottingham City Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Vernon Park Day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children.

The physical environment is satisfactory. The premises are safe and secure and are welcoming to parents and children. The setting has effective recruitment procedures in place, however, the induction training for new members of staff is insufficient. The deployment of qualified members of staff within the nursery is also unsatisfactory. Children have access to a good range of equipment, most of which is of a suitable design and condition. The documentation required for the safe and effective management of the provision is maintained.

Positive steps are taken to promote safety within the setting. Daily risk assessments are carried out and fire drills are practiced to ensure children's safety. Meals are varied and nutritious and children's dietary needs are met well. Some staff are inconsistent in promoting high standards of hygiene. All children are treated equally and individual needs are met well. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of any child with identified special needs. Not all staff have sufficient knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

Children are involved in a broad range of activities both inside and out. Planning covers all areas of development and is clear and effective for all age groups. Staff provide sufficient support and direction in activities but also allow time for children to explore freely. Children's behaviour is managed well throughout the nursery and good behaviour is valued and encouraged.

The partnership with parents is good. Detailed information is provided for parents about the nursery provision and its policies and procedures. Parental involvement is always encouraged and parents support the nursery well.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting agreed to address several safety issues. They have made the premises secure by installing a lock on the pre-school door to ensure children cannot leave unsupervised. Medication is now stored on a high shelf in a cupboard out of children's reach, and all trailing wires have been removed to ensure electrical appliances are safe. They also agreed to make the child protection policy available for parents. This is now on display in the main entrance to the building, so any parents wishing to view it can do so. Nursery vehicle documentation is now available for inspection in the operational plan, this complies with the National Standards.

What is being done well?

- Staff show an interest in what children do. They talk and listen to them, praise and encourage them.
- Children are involved in a broad range of activities that encourages their learning and development. There is clear planning for all age groups and activities are changed regularly to provide interest.
- A welcoming environment is provided for parents. They are provided with good information about the provision and parents comment they are happy with the provision.
- Snacks and meals are varied, healthy and nutritious.

What needs to be improved?

- staff deployment to ensure there are sufficiently qualified members of staff working directly with the children at all times

- induction training for new members of staff to ensure they have sufficient knowledge and understanding of policies and procedures including child protection and good hygiene practices
- the quality and range of books for the younger children.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	Provide an action plan that states how you intend to meet adult to child ratios, and ensure staff training and qualifications requirements are met to meet the children's needs effectively.	09/01/2004

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Vernon Park Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education where children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. Staff have a satisfactory understanding of the stepping stones and early learning goals and plan a varied curriculum to cover all the areas of learning. Focused activities are planned in depth and assessments of children's progress are completed regularly to ensure staff have a good knowledge of individual children's learning needs. Children are sufficiently challenged in most areas and children with special educational needs and English as an additional language are supported appropriately. Staff use their own time effectively to support children's play, asking appropriate questions to extend their learning, however, the daily routine does not always allow children sufficient time to complete tasks and become fully involved in their play. The children's behaviour is managed well and good manners and politeness are rewarded. Staff present themselves as positive role models and set good examples.

Leadership and management are generally good. The setting has had a recent change of manager. Practice is regularly assessed and evaluated to ensure they continually meet the needs of the children. The setting is committed to the improvement of care and education it provides through ongoing staff development and training.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are well informed about the nursery provision, their child's progress and the curriculum. Systems have been introduced to enable parents to share information about children's achievements at home, this ensures an effective two way flow of information. Monthly newsletters provide detailed information about current themes and topics, and the nursery and children benefit from regular parental involvement.

What is being done well?

- There are regular planned and unplanned opportunities for children to practice recognising numerals and counting. Excellent use is made of additional resources to extend children's learning such as the number line, where children work together to peg the numbers in the right order and match them to the number display on the wall.
- Children have good hand eye co-ordination. They show good skill at manipulating objects and equipment and handle tools correctly.
- Children behave well. They are polite and well mannered and are sensitive to others.
- Partnership with parents is good. Parents are provided with good quality documentation and there is a regular two-way flow of information.

What needs to be improved?

- the routine of the day to allow children time to become fully absorbed in activities and complete tasks
- the physical challenge for more able children particularly when climbing
- the use of practical and everyday activities to reinforce children's understanding of addition and subtraction.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Improvement since the last inspection has been generally good. The reading scheme that had recently been introduced at the last inspection has been monitored and evaluated and an action plan was drawn up. This has ensured the reading scheme continued to be appropriate for the children. However due to a recent change in staffing this has not always been consistently applied.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are confident in their surroundings and develop a sense of community as they learn about their own needs, cultures and beliefs, and those of others. They are beginning to understand the need to treat each other with respect and show an awareness of right and wrong. Children's independence is good, they manage their own coats, help tidy away and hand out cups and snacks at meal times. Children explore the activities available but do not always have time to become fully involved.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children speak clearly and fluently. They are confident to approach others and initiate conversations. They listen carefully to stories and join in with well known and remembered phrases. Most children recognise their own name. Some recognise their surname and the names of other children. Children use their knowledge of phonics and letter land characters to sound out their names and familiar words. Children make marks in the home corner and attempt to write their own name to label artwork.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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There are many opportunities for children to recognise numerals and count everyday objects. The children make very good use of the number line as they count and match. They use mathematical language in everyday play and make good use of resources to recognise, compare and explore shapes. There are some missed opportunities during freely chosen activities and daily routines to reinforce children's understanding of addition and subtraction.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have a good sense of time as they discuss past events. They make good use of photographs to talk about trips they have been on and activities they have done. They enjoy learning about their local environment with walks out to collect leaves. They look carefully at the weather to complete scientific experiments such as measuring rainfall. They use a range of technology to support their learning and use a selection of tools and resources to join and fix.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's fine motor skills are developing well. They engage in lots of activities that encourage hand-eye co-ordination and small muscle development. They handle objects with skill and control as they peg cards onto the number line or thread small beads onto a lace. They move confidently outside and are able to ride bikes, kick balls and negotiate obstacles with ease, however, there is limited opportunity for children to be challenged physically particularly when climbing.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are creative in many ways. They design and create three dimensional models and pictures. They use their imagination in dressing up, music and dance. They explore sound and rhythm and listen carefully to music from around the world. They have free access to a variety of musical instruments, music and story tapes. They show delight as they mix colour and watch the change and use their senses when baking cakes or describing the object in the feely bag.

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 the daily routine allows children time to become fully absorbed in their play and to complete tasks
- provide more challenging climbing equipment for the more able children
- use practical and everyday activities to reinforce children's understanding of addition and subtraction.

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.