



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 134929

DfES Number: 547372

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/11/2004
Inspector Name	Jill Milton

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Kidsunlimited Nurseries - Milton Park Two
Setting Address	106 Milton Park Milton Abingdon Oxfordshire OX14 4RZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Kidsunlimited
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Kidsunlimited
Address	Kids of Wimslow Ltd 10 West Street Alderley Edge Cheshire SK9 7EG

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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

Kidsunlimited Milton Park Two Day Nursery is one of a chain of nurseries owned by the Kidsunlimited group. The nursery opened in 2000 and operates from purpose built premises on the Milton Park business complex, near Didcot in Oxfordshire. The nursery serves the local employees and families from the neighbouring communities.

The premises consist of a series of ground floor rooms to cater for the different age groups and there is access to outdoor play space. The nursery is open on weekdays, from 07.30 to 18.00, throughout the year, apart from bank holidays. There are currently 121 children on roll, aged from 6 months to 5 years. Of these 28 children are receiving nursery education funding. The setting supports a number of children for whom English is an additional language.

The nursery employs 34 staff, over half of whom have appropriate early years qualifications. There are 11 staff working towards a qualification.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Kidsunlimited Milton Park Two Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education overall which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Provision for knowledge and understanding of the world, mathematical and creative development is very good. Physical development has some significant weaknesses.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan a broad range of activities which take into account each area of the curriculum. They ensure that the day provides variety and change of pace and the adults work particularly well with small groups of children. In most aspects, the staff understand how to extend children's learning, though some adult writing presents a poor example for children to follow. Staff ensure children who are learning English as an additional language are fully included in all the activities. The staff plan for the children's physical development though the lack of sufficient, challenging resources for outdoor play hinders their efforts. In all other areas, resources in the nursery are very good and staff use them well. Overall staff manage children's behaviour appropriately though they are slow to offer praise for good behaviour and some group times are disruptive.

Leadership and management are generally good. Staff performance is regularly reviewed and there are close links between senior staff. Staff respond well to advice and act promptly to directly benefit children's learning. Staff discuss the activities regularly amongst themselves but there is no system in place to evaluate the educational provision.

The partnership with parents and carers is generally good. Parents can access a good range of printed information about the nursery and planning is on display. Parents can share their comments about their child's learning. Staff use their knowledge of the children to write progress reports but the children's records of development contain few entries to share with parents.

What is being done well?

- The children experience a good range of activities to stimulate their senses. They are learning how materials can feel quite different, for example new modelling clay. They observe how materials change as they help to prepare pastry and pumpkin filling for a pie.
- Staff provide good support to developing children's knowledge and respect for different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. The children have access to resources like books, play people and jigsaw puzzles which provide them with positive images of diversity.
- Children take part in a number of activities to support their matching and sorting skills. Staff encourage them to compare objects and sort them by

colour or size.

- Staff work well to support children's learning in small groups. They are attentive to the children's needs and their involvement in activities helps the children to settle and complete tasks, such as a jigsaw puzzle.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to extend their physical skills outdoors
- the use of children's developmental records to regularly record progress and plan the next steps in learning and share with parents
- the staff's evaluation of how effective the activities are in promoting children's learning
- the management of large group times so that children can listen well and behave more appropriately
- the adult's writing samples for children ensuring correct letter formation and spelling.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are confident and eager to play. They take part in an active and varied day and they receive good support from the adults when they are unsure of a situation, for example, when parents leave. Children are developing good social skills and they make choices about what to play. Children use puzzles and play people that help develop their respect for other cultures and needs. Children's behaviour is good overall, though the disruptive behaviour receives the adult attention.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are developing good language skills as they share conversations and express ideas in their imaginative play. Some boisterous group times make it difficult for children to listen well and put over their point without shouting. Children recognise both their own names and those of friends. They use books correctly and enjoy sharing stories in small groups. Children show a good understanding of the purpose of writing in their play and they use pictures and mark-making to record their news.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children take part in daily activities using a good variety of resources to develop their mathematical understanding. They match colours and use pattern making and they sort objects by type or size. During play with water, the children explore quantity and the adults help them to use words like 'full' and 'half full'. They also explore shape and space as they carefully build and balance bricks. Children use and recognise numbers and remind each other 'only four allowed in the home corner'.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show a good awareness of recent events and the natural world. They observe the nursery fish, take part in gardening and talk about the weather and their own daily routines. Children observe how things change as they plant bulbs and take part in cookery activities. They are becoming aware of the wider world through well-planned topics. Children have good access to technology and design and they are confident in the use of tools and equipment, such as a computer mouse.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children move safely and with control around the nursery. They work together to make a parachute move up and down, learning how to space themselves around the edge. Children readily select fruit and staff encourage healthy eating. Children are developing good co-ordination and manipulative skills. They use a wide range of tools and materials with confidence and control. Children have limited access to large play equipment and the range of resources to support outdoor play is insufficient.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy using their creative skills to draw, paint and express their ideas. They experience handling different textures and they question what things are made of. Staff encourage them to talk about their feelings. Children are eager to share their own version of well-known rhymes and they listen to different styles of music in the day. They use imagination in their play with friends and they make up their own stories as they use the home corner or arrange play people in the house.

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 children have sufficient resources to challenge and develop their physical skills
- complete children's developmental records more thoroughly and regularly, to enable staff to plan the next steps in learning and share detailed information with parents
- develop a system to monitor and evaluate how effective the activities are in promoting children's learning
- explore ways of managing large group times more effectively, so that children listen well and good behaviour is promoted.

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.