



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 123119

DfES Number: 500480

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/05/2004
Inspector Name Marnie Downes

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Toots Day Nursery
Setting Address 214 Totterdown Street
 Tooting
 London
 SW17 8TD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Elizabeth Mary Adkins

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

Toots Day Nursery opened in 1990. It operates from three rooms in a purpose built premises in Tooting. The day nursery serves the local community.

There are currently 53 children from 0 to 5 years on roll. This includes 18 funded 3 year olds and 4 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00.

Thirteen part/full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have Early Years qualifications equivalent to NVQ Level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Toots Day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children.

They operate a good ratio of qualified staff. Children are grouped by age and level of development, they have separate areas to play, sleep and eat comfortably. Space is organised and utilised well, the nursery make good use of the available outside play areas.

The nursery has health and safety policies and procedures in place. The premises and equipment are safe, however play equipment and resources are generally not cleaned to a sufficient standard. A cook prepares all of the children's main meals and snacks. These are balanced and offer the children variety. Staff have understanding of child protection issues and of keeping children safe.

There is a selection of equipment and activities which allow children to extend their learning and skills in the different areas of learning. Staff interact well with the children, giving positive praise and encouragement to them. Children's behaviour is managed consistently well in all rooms.

Good systems for communication have been established with parents, with the use of verbal and written formats. Policies and procedures are in place to contribute to the effective running of the nursery. However the registration system does not currently meet regulations, some parental consent to acknowledge medicines being given is missing and an accident form for a parent to sign was left where other parents could do it at the time of the inspection.

What has improved since the last inspection?

All actions raised at the last inspection have been addressed satisfactorily, except for the registration procedure. The nursery now has a qualified member of staff to prepare children's food, radiators are adequately covered and the washing machine facilities are no longer accessible to the children. The outdoor areas are safe and clear of rubbish. Imaginative and home corner play has been extended along with the range of books that reflect positive images and the range of natural resources available to the children.

Policies and procedures are now in place or have been extended to include to a lost or uncollected child, complaints, requesting parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment, reporting accidents and parents signing accident records, child protection and informing Ofsted of significant events. Staff records are available for inspection and the relevant checks are carried out on staff. The staffing rota is now displayed along with the nursery's public liability insurance certificate.

What is being done well?

- The nursery gives priority to children's safety. The premises have very good security systems in place and particular attention is given to fire safety and sun safety.
- Children are provided with a healthy and balanced menu throughout the day. Special dietary needs are respected and fully catered for as are the children's likes and dislikes. Children in all rooms have access to drinking water throughout the day.
- The staff team interact well with the children, encouraging their good behaviour with stickers and star reward systems. They manage children's behaviour in a calm and positive manner, providing consistency in their approach.
- Good systems are in place to share information with parents. They receive daily written information on their child's well being and time at the nursery. Current parents have returned questionnaires stating that they are happy with the service provided.

What needs to be improved?

- The procedure to records children's arrival and departure times;
- Staff deployment;

- The confidentiality of children's records and obtaining parental consent;
- The hygiene and cleanliness of equipment and resources.

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
14	Ensure that daily records of children's attendance include times of arrival and departure.	25/05/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
7	Ensure that toys and play equipment are clean.
14	Ensure that written records of medicines given to children are signed by parents, and that all children's records maintain privacy and confidentiality.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Toots Day Nursery offers good quality education where children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. The children are cared for by qualified staff who have recently attended courses which relate to the Foundation Stage. Planning is carried out by the staff who work with the children and demonstrates an understanding of the early learning goals. However, plans do not always include all areas of the curriculum which prevents children from having sufficient opportunities to make progress. Written observations are kept on each child but it is unclear how these are used to plan for the children's next stage of learning and to focus teaching. Staff are generally able to say what they want the children to do next and know what they want to achieve during planned activities. Staff are enthusiastic and committed. They support children well during activities and give appropriate praise. Staff listen to the children and regularly extend conversations. Staff are aware of children's individual needs.

Leadership and management is generally good. The friendly staff work well as a team. The two managers work and are committed to providing good care and go into the room to support staff and give advice. The staff say they find the managers approachable and can go to them for support. The managers are committed to staff development and enable staff to attend courses. They are committed to developing the planning but are yet to support the staff in showing how observations are used for planning.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents state that they are very happy with the nursery. They comment that their child has learnt things which have not been covered at home. Parents find staff approachable and receive daily verbal feedback. Written records on their child are always available. Parents receive newsletters which give information on activities.

What is being done well?

- Children play happily together and are able to share and take turns. The children have very good relationships with each other. They relate well to the staff.
- Children are very confident talking. Staff listen to their questions and comments and extend conversations by asking open ended questions and introducing new vocabulary.
- The staff work well together. They have an understanding of the early learning goals and are supportive of the children during activities.
- The managers support staff and are aware of their strengths and areas which need to be developed. They are committed to the continual development of the staff, ensuring they access and attend courses.

- Very good links are developed with parents. Parents state they are very happy and find the staff supportive and approachable.

What needs to be improved?

- regular opportunities for older and more able children to recognise numerals 1-5, and then 1-9, and to select the correct numeral to represent 1-5
- resources which provide children with positive images of culture and disability
- children's awareness of the range of healthy practices in relation to eating, sleeping and exercise and observing the effect activity has on their bodies
- regular opportunities for children to develop and explore their gross motors skills in balance and climbing
- opportunities to respond in a variety of ways to what they smell and taste
- plans need to be up to date and to show how written observations have been used to plan for the next stage for children's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress made since the last inspection is generally good.

Toots was asked to improve the provision of books and resources for role play and to provide more encouragement for children to write their name. Resources have been brought and children have access to books which are interesting to look at. Some role play items are also provided but these can be further developed by providing a wider range of resources which promote learning about equality, particularly in relation to small world play. Children are encouraged to write their name on their work.

Toots was also asked to improve planning to ensure equality of access for children with varying abilities. The written plans enable all children to participate. They show very good awareness of how to support children with special needs.

Toots were also asked to improve the assessment system ensuring the six areas of learning are covered and to plan for children's individual learning. Planning covers the six areas of learning but some aspects are not always covered. Staff do not demonstrate how planning has been used for children's next stage of learning.

Lastly, Toots were asked to provide a better selection of technological resources. Children have access to a computer in the room. With limited adult support the children are confident when using the computer. They also have access to tape recorders which they use without adult support and with confidence.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children are very happy. They play well together and are able to share and take turns. The children relate well to the staff who are aware of their needs. The children are well behaved and staff manage behaviour with clear explanations. The children are confident to select resources and regularly choose what is put on the tables. Children are independent at meal times and are able to manage their bathroom needs.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

The children are very confident to speak to staff and each other in one to one or group situations. The staff listen to the children and regularly extend conversations. Children enjoy looking at books and handle them correctly. The older and more able children know most of their alphabet and are able to link sounds to letters. Children can write their names and some letters. There are insufficient opportunities for older children to attempt writing for a variety of purposes e.g. lists, stories.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident to count in a group or alone. They can count up to 15. They are beginning to explore simple addition. There are too few opportunities, however, for children to recognise numerals and to select the numeral which represents the number of objects. The children confidently name their shapes. They use problem solving skills to complete puzzles and construct. Staff provide children with activities which explore weight and height.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children confidently design and construct using a range of two and three dimensional materials. They proudly display their work. They are confident and happy when using the computer and only need minimal adult support. Children regularly learn about cultures different to their own and parents confirm this. They are improving the resources which promote equality. Children learn about living things and regularly participate in growing activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children use a range of small equipment including pencils, scissors and rolling pins with increasing control. Children also use large equipment including bikes, bats, balls and tunnels. They are able to move confidently and with control. However there are too few opportunities to develop their motor skills in balance and climbing. Children have some awareness of the importance of staying healthy and the effect activity has on their bodies but this is not sufficiently developed.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children enthusiastically explore colour, texture and form in two or three dimensions. They engage imaginatively in role play using props to develop their games. Children have regular access to musical instruments and have made some of them. Children who wish to, participate enthusiastically in singing and dance activities. They respond to what they hear, touch and feel but there are too few opportunities to respond to what they smell and taste.

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

- Continue to develop the planning, using written observations to plan for the children's next stage of learning.
- Provide older and more able children with regular opportunities to begin to recognise numerals and to select the correct numeral to represent objects 1-5 and then 1-9.
- Ensure children are given regular opportunities to develop their gross motor skills by providing activities which encourage balance and climbing.
- Make sure children are aware of the range of healthy practices with regard to eating, sleeping and hygiene. Enable children to observe the effect activity has on their body.

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.