



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY136941

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/06/2003  
Inspector Name Pamela Woodhouse

### SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name Christchurch Montessori  
Setting Address Beauchamp Place, Reid Street  
Christchurch  
Dorset  
BH23 2BS

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Gillian Mary Thomas

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

### Information about the setting

Christchurch Montessori is privately owned and has been registered in the premises for 6 months. The nursery is registered for 26 children aged two to under five years and operates from the ground floor of the Scout hall. The premises are located close to the centre of Christchurch and serves the local community. There are currently 49 children on roll, this includes funded three and four year olds. The nursery supports children with special needs and children for whom English is an additional language. The nursery opens five days per week all year round from 08:00 until 5:30 with sessions from 09:00 until 1:00p.m. and 1:00 until 3:30p.m. Children can attend for a morning or afternoon session, alternatively they may stay for the full day. It does not offer provision for overnight care. Five full time members of staff and the Proprietor work directly with the children. Four of whom (including the Proprietor) have early years qualifications, two of these are currently undertaking further training and another is undertaking a training programme. The nursery receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

Christchurch Montessori provides satisfactory care for children and the Proprietor has an understanding of the National Standards. The nursery provides a warm welcome to parents and children who feel confident and secure in their surroundings. However, consideration needs to be given to the presentation of the playrooms. There is a comprehensive operational plan, however, some of the policies and procedures do not work in practice. The nursery is very well equipped and children are able to select their own activities from a range of low open shelving units. Regular risk assessments of the premises are undertaken and they are very secure. Attention however, needs to be given for the safe use of the outside play area and ensuring fire exits are not obstructed. Staff are mindful of good health and hygiene practice and procedures are in place to ensure this. Alternative room arrangements for serving children's teas should be considered. The nursery provides a good range of stimulating and challenging activities which encourage children's learning, thinking and independence. The children are confident, helpful and co-operative with their peers. The children are very well behaved when they are occupied constructively however there are times when this breaks down, in particular, during snack and lunch time periods. Staff have a good relationship with parents and keep them informed of their children's progress.

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the registration visit the Proprietor agreed to provide evidence that staff have been vetted, make storage heaters, toilet door locks and stairs inaccessible to children and make vehicle documents available. The Proprietor has addressed these issues by; sending copies of confirmation of staff vetting to the Regional Centre, installing fixed heater guards, ensuring that ch cannot lock themselves in the toilet and installing a barrier at the bottom of the stairs. Vehicle documents are stored with nursery documentation.

**What is being done well?**

Staff provide a good range of stimulating activities which provide stimulation and challenge and which promote independence. (Standard 3) There is a good range of equipment from which the children are able to select unaided. (Standard 5) The premises are secure and adults and children are unable to enter or leave without staff's knowledge. (Standard 6) Staff have a good relationship with parents and exchange information regularly. (Standard 12)

**What needs to be improved?**

supervision of unvetted persons (Standard 1) the operational plan and staff's awareness of their own roles and responsibilities to ensure that policies and procedures work in practice (Standard 2) immediate access to fire exits (Standard 6) the supervision and risk assessment of outside play area to minimise risk to children. (Standard 6) the procedures for completing the accident book (Standard 7) the approach to managing children's behaviour consistently (Standard 11) the child protection policy to ensure that procedures are in place to address any allegations (Standard 14)

**Outcome of the inspection**

Satisfactory

**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?****The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
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**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
1	ensure that there are effective procedures in place to supervise at all times persons who have not been vetted

2	ensure that the operational plan works in practice and that staff qualifications are available
2	ensure that staff are deployed effectively at all times and understand their roles and responsibilities
2	make sure that children's surnames are included on the daily register
4	give consideration to the presentation of both playrooms but in particular the smaller room to make them more welcoming
4	make alternative room arrangements for serving the children's tea
6	ensure that staff have an understanding of health and safety regulations and how they are implemented
6	conduct a risk assessment of the outside play area identifying action(s) to be taken to minimize identified risks
6	ensure that fire exits are clear at all times
7	make sure that records of accidents are fully recorded and parents signature obtained
9	devise an equal opportunities policy that is consistent with current legislation and guidance. Ensure that this is understood and implemented by all staff and shared with parents
11	develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development
14	ensure that child protection policy includes written procedures for any allegations made against members of staff

## **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.*