



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY240994

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/09/2003
Inspector Name	Deborah Jane Starr

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Apple Tree Day Care Nursery
Setting Address	Wild Country Lane Long Ashton Bristol BS41 9AG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Apple Tree Day Care Nursery Ltd 4445021
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Apple Tree Day Care Nursery Ltd
Address	Wild Country Lane Long Ashton North Somerset BS41 9AG

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

Apple Tree Day Care Nursery is located within its own purpose built premises in the village of Long Ashton on the outskirts of Bristol. The nursery operates on two floors and children have access to a garden at the rear of the premises.

The nursery offers care Monday to Friday 8:00 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year to a maximum of 54 children aged between 3 months and 5 years of age. The nursery provides 10 places under the Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative. The nursery closes at 17.00 on alternate days during the 3rd week of each month for staff meetings. Children attend the nursery from a wide geographical area.

There are currently 8 three year olds attending who are in receipt of funding. The nursery has experience of caring for children with special educational needs and for whom English is an additional language.

There are 16 members of staff, 14 of whom work directly with the children. Three members of staff hold NVQ level 4 or relevant teaching qualifications, 5 members of staff hold NVQ level 3 qualifications and 5 members of staff hold NVQ level 2 qualifications.

The nursery includes within its curriculum, elements of the High Scope Approach of 'Plan, Do and Review', small group time and large group time. French sessions are also available as an optional extra.

How good is the Day Care?

Apple Tree Day Care Nursery provides good care for children. The management team are very committed to, and give extensive support to, the staff to develop their skills through on-going training. The staff have a good knowledge of policies and procedures and their practice effectively reflects the operational plan. Staff work closely as a team. Staff are vigilant in creating a safe and caring environment and have a good knowledge and understanding of how to protect children, regular reviews of health and safety are carried out. Increased opportunities for children to

access drinking water should be considered. Staff have a clear and consistent approach to behaviour management; children respond well to this.

The provision for babies and under 2's is good. The staff have a flexible approach and give close attention to meeting the individual needs of babies for eating, sleeping and nappy changing. Clear information is exchanged daily through written and verbal feedback, Staff plan a wide range of stimulating activities on a daily basis in which all children can participate.

Staff have a good knowledge of children's development and know how children learn. Children take part in a broad range of well planned activities in which they are interested and enjoy. Regular visits to community resources are used effectively to extend learning opportunities for all children. Staff are sensitive to and skilfully meet the individual needs of children.

Staff work well with parents to ensure that children are settled and progress in their development. Parents are welcomed into the nursery and staff make themselves available to parents. Clear written information is given to, or made easily accessible to, parents about policies and procedures, children's progress and events within the nursery; this could be extended further. Records are clear, concise, comprehensive and accurate. Confidentiality is appropriately maintained

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- The management and staff team's strong commitment to on-going training.
- Staff have a good knowledge of children's development and know how children learn
- Staff plan a broad range of activities both inside and outside the nursery which help children of all ages progress and in which they are interested and enjoy.
- Staff are vigilant in creating a safe environment for children and promoting good hygiene awareness with them.
- Staff work sensitively and skilfully with children and parents to ensure that each child's individual needs are met.
- Staff have a clear, consistent approach to behaviour management, to which children respond well.
- Staff work closely with parents and provide them with clear information about their child's progress and events within the nursery.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to access drinking water throughout the day;
- information to parents about child protection procedures and responsibilities.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

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
8	increase opportunities for children to access drinking water throughout the day
13	inform parents of child protection procedures and responsibilities.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The teaching is very good with many strengths in all areas. Staff have a clear understanding of how children learn and offer a broad and varied range of interesting planned projects which help children progress. Opportunities for children to practice writing skills for a variety of purposes could be extended. The support for children for whom English is an additional language is very good. Children's behaviour is very good.

The management and leadership of the nursery is very good. There is a well qualified, stable and dedicated management team who are committed to the development of their staffs skills and on-going professional development through training.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are given clear, comprehensive and easily accessible information on their child's development and on all aspects of the nursery. Parents give strong support for the nursery. However the provision of information to parents about the Foundation Stage is limited.

What is being done well?

- 1. Children are making very good progress in all areas of learning. They are confident and interested, relate well to each other and staff, ask questions, express their ideas through creative and imaginative play, are developing an awareness of number and shape and are becoming aware of their local community and other cultures.
- 2. Activities are well planned and maintain the children's interest.
- 3. Staff work closely with parents to support children for whom English is an additional language.
- 4. The management and staff team are motivated and committed to their continuing improvement through on-going training and development of skills.
- 5. Staff provide parents with clear and accessible information on all aspects of the group.

What needs to be improved?

- Opportunities for children to practice writing skills for a variety of purposes.
- Information to parents about the foundation stage so they may be better involved in the on-going assessment of their child's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?
The nursery has made good progress since the last inspection. Staff have acted upon the key issues identified. Firstly to develop planning which reflects the observation, assessment and evaluation of children's progress and identifies the next stage in learning. Secondly to extend the range of technology available and provide appropriate software for children to use on the computer. Both key issues have been addressed fully.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. They confidently choose activities, work co-operatively, share, take turns and listen well to each other and staff. Children are able to express themselves. Children's behaviour is good, they respond well to staff expectations. They are learning independence in their self care, washing hands and dressing themselves. Children have good opportunities to become aware of the local and wider community

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in communication, language and literacy. Children enjoy many activities which introduce letter sounds and new words which extend their vocabulary. They understand that print has meaning and are able to recognise their names; some children are able to write their names. Opportunities for children to practice writing skills for a variety of purposes are limited. Children are beginning to use books for reference.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in mathematics. Children are developing a good awareness of number in everyday activities. They can confidently count up to 3 on their own and can count beyond this in a group. Children's recognition of shapes is developing well. They understand the difference between simple shapes and are able to apply this to everyday objects. Children are able to create and copy simple patterns and sequences.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world. Children investigate and explore why things change through well-planned activities. Children learn to use technology in everyday activities. Children talk confidently about events and are developing a sense of the past and present. Topic work introduces them to their local community and increases their awareness of the world around them.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in their physical development. They move confidently around the nursery, negotiating stairs, gates, and around other children during inside and outside play. Children are developing an awareness of their self-care through hand washing and dressing and of how to keep their bodies healthy through well-planned topic work. Children are developing the skills to enable them to be able to use tools effectively.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in their creative development. They have good opportunities to use a wide range of materials to explore colour, texture and shape. Children are introduced to a wide variety of music through singing songs, pre-recorded tapes and musical instruments. Children are learning to use their senses to explore the world through taste, smell and touch of different foods and exploration in the garden.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- Extend opportunities for children to develop and practice writing skills for a variety of purposes.
- Develop and share information with parents so that the Foundation Stage is clear to them and they are able to be better involved with the on-going assessment of their child's learning.

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.