



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 140432

DfES Number: 582250

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/03/2004
Inspector Name	Asia Islam

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Ladybird Montessori School
Setting Address	Sheldon Avenue London N6 4ND

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Niclar Limited 03770052
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Niclar Limited
Address	7 Wardour Street London W1D 6PE

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

Ladybird Montessori School has been registered since 1990. It is privately owned and operates from a small community hall situated in the area of Highgate Village. The group serves children from the local community.

Areas accessible to children are the play hall, toilet area and an enclosed outside play area.

The group currently has 24 children aged between two and under five years old on the roll. This includes 12 funded three years old and 1 funded four year old. The group support nine children with English as additional language.

The group operates Monday to Friday morning sessions from 09:30 to 12:30 term time only.

Ladybird Montessori School follow the Montessori teaching methods. Three members of the staff team hold the Montessori Diploma qualification and the other member of staff has suitable childcare experience.

How good is the Day Care?

Ladybird Montessori School provides good care for children. Staff organise space to offer children a warm and welcoming environment. The staff work well as a team and have developed good relationships with the children. They are appropriately grouped for activities throughout the session. There is a good range of play resources for children under five. Most of the records, activity plans and children's observations are in place. The written procedure for lost children was not available at the time of the inspection.

Staff promote children's safety, health and hygiene within their daily routines. They understand the importance of respecting children's individual dietary needs. Staff have a good awareness and understanding of child protection issues and the many positive ways of working with children with special needs.

Children have access to a good range of resources to stimulate their all round development and learning. They make choices about play and learning. Staff encourage and support children's individual learning needs on a one to one and in groups. Children are happy, confident and secure. Children behave and respond well to staff guidance.

Staff have developed good working relationships with the parents. They ensure parents are kept well informed on the many procedures of the provision and their children's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection, the group has developed relevant policies and procedures and maintains the necessary records. This has improved the quality of information given to parents about the provision and the group's overall record keeping. Fire exits are kept clear of obstacles for emergency evacuation and the garden is safe for children's outdoor play. The area child protection procedure is in place and staff are aware of the actions to take in the event of such concerns.

What is being done well?

- Staff ensure that the space and play resources are clean and that the environment is warm and welcoming to children. Resources support children's comfortable and free play. Children are secure and confident.
- Staff promote children's safety, health and hygiene awareness appropriately. Ensuring the fire exits are kept clear of any obstacles. They check the outdoor play area before taking children out. They also encourage children to wash hands at appropriate times.
- Staff understand the importance of valuing children's individual needs in play and learning. There is a wide range of resources to provide opportunities for developing children's learning. Children are very eager and interested in play. Children choose activities and resources that are of interest to them. Children are happy and relaxed in play. They play well with each other.
- Staff have developed good working relationships with parents. They display children's activity plans, photographs of children's past activities, the group's policies and procedures. They share children's daily progress verbally with the parents and a written progress report each term. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress and activities within the group.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedure for lost children

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
2	Develop a written procedure for lost children.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Ladybird Montessori School provides high quality early years education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of the teaching is very good. The staff have a clear knowledge of the Foundation Stage and their effective planning of an interesting and appropriate range of practical activities help children to learn. There are good planning and assessment systems in place, which are used well to check and record children's attainment and progress. Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs and they encourage children to be confident and independent. Management of behaviour is good and children are developing a good understanding of right and wrong. There are opportunities for children to initiate their play and to be taught individually or in small groups. There is a good range of equipment which staff use well to support children's progress in all areas of learning. Activities are well-managed. Opportunities for children to use equipment to develop their climbing skills or to play musical instruments regularly are limited.

Leadership and management is very good. The nursery benefits from the strong leadership of the principal and the teacher. They are effective in promoting staff development and training. Staff are committed to their development and evaluate and review the effectiveness of their practice.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are given good quality written information about the setting, activities and routine. There are good formal and informal systems in place to share information with parents about their children's attainment and progress.

What is being done well?

- staff understanding of the early learning goals and the creation of a stimulating environment in which children learn through a wide range of practical activities
- staff have a good understanding of children's needs and as a result children are confident and independent
- management of behaviour which enables children to develop a good understanding of right and wrong
- staff have good relationships with parents.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to develop their climbing skills

- opportunities for children to use musical instruments.

What has improved since the last inspection?
N/A

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's confidence and self-esteem is promoted well by staff and there is a strong emphasis placed on encouraging children's independence. Children choose activities and resources confidently. Children have good relationships, they take turns and co-operate well. They are learning to understand right and wrong and respond positively to intervention by staff. They concentrate well and complete tasks.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak confidently in large and small groups. They are developing good writing skills and are able to recognise sounds, letters and words. They enjoy listening to stories and handle books with confidence.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are learning to recognise numbers and count to 10 and beyond. They are interested in solving mathematical problems and their learning is re-enforced through practical activities. They have good opportunities to compare and separate groups of numbers. They are developing a good understanding of size, sequencing and to use language to describe size.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to talk about themselves and family. They explore and investigate and are developing a good understanding of the natural world. They are encouraged to develop an understanding of a wide range of cultures. They have good opportunities to construct and build through a range of resources and activities. They have good opportunities to use and learn about everyday technology.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are given good opportunities for indoor and outdoor play. They move about confidently and safely and take the needs of others into account. They used a wide range of tools and equipment safely. They are encouraged to develop an understanding of the importance of staying healthy. There are limited opportunities at the setting for children to use equipment to develop their climbing skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children enjoy role-playing through a range of interesting activities. They have good opportunities to explore colour, shapes and texture. They explore sound through singing songs and rhymes and are encouraged to have an appreciation of music. There are few opportunities for children to use musical instruments.	
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:

- Point for consideration
- increase opportunities for children to develop their climbing skills.

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.