



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY272287

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	12/02/2004
Inspector Name	Sally Hall

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Noah's Ark Childcare Centre
Setting Address	133 Babbacombe Road Torquay Devon TQ1 3SR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The partnership of Noah's Ark Childcare Centres 04575783
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Noah's Ark Childcare Centres
Address	30 Looe Street Plymouth Devon PL4 0EA

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

Noah's Ark Childcare Centre is a long established nursery which was taken over by new management in September 2003 and are part of the Noah's Ark childcare group. They are open from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday all year round, providing full daycare. The facility is registered to accept thirty-four children aged up to five years old. Of these no more than 18 children can be under three years old and of these no more than six children can be under two years old. The nursery is situated in the centre of Babbacombe on a bus route. The facility operates on two floors and has an enclosed garden to the rear. The majority of the staff in the nursery are qualified and the setting is overseen by an area manager from Noah's Ark Childcare Services. This nursery accepts funded three and four-year-old children and currently have 17 funded children. Children with special needs are welcomed into the setting as are children with English as an additional language. The nursery receives support from the Early Year's Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Noah's Ark Child Care Centre provides satisfactory childcare. There is a clear management structure in place with plans in place to improve the nursery and carry out a refurbishment programme over the next two months. The staff relate well to each other and children are secure and confident. The resources are satisfactory and age related, however they are not always easily accessible particularly in the toddler room. There are insufficient resources to raise children's awareness of diversity.

Documentation has recently been reviewed to meet the standards and is very well presented and shared with parents and staff.

Overall safety requirements are in place within the nursery and risk assessments are regularly carried out. Hygiene is adequately promoted with the children and in the nursery. Meal arrangements have recently been improved and a cooked lunch is now provided, which is supplied by a local school. This has been valued by parents. The nursery are active in promoting fruit at snack time, and drinking water is easily

accessible for older children encouraging independence.

Staff have limited confidence and experience of dealing with child protection, special needs, behaviour management and equal opportunities. Management are currently reviewing individual training programmes for staff.

Staff are sensitive to children's individual needs. However, learning opportunities are not provided to support learning in all the areas of children's development and offer a broad range of activities.

Parents are very warmly welcomed and now have regular newsletter. However, not all parents feel they are kept well informed of their child's development and routine.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Clear management structure. The new management have plans to refurbish the nursery and a commitment to implement on going improvement.
- The nursery provides a varied diet and promotes healthy eating.
- Documentation is very well presented. It has been recently reviewed to meet the standards and shared with parents and staff.
- Children are confident in the setting. They relate well to each and members of staff.

What needs to be improved?

- resources to be easily accessible to encourage children's independence and to raise children's awareness of diversity
- staff knowledge and confidence in dealing with child protection, equal opportunities, behaviour management and special needs, to enable children's personal development and care
- the partnership with parents ensuring they are all well informed of children's personal development and daily routine.

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Develop an action plan that sets out how staff training requirements will be met with particular reference to equal opportunities, special needs, behaviour management and child protection.
5	Ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that are easily accessible, particularly in the toddler room, and that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
12	Provide opportunities for parents to receive regular information on their children's progress and to keep them well informed.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Noah's Ark Childcare Centre offers acceptable nursery education where children are happy and settle quickly. However, children's progress towards the early learning goals overall is limited by some significant weaknesses. They make generally good progress in communication, language and literacy, taking a particular delight in listening to stories. Children co-operate well with each other and form good relationships with staff and each other.

Overall staff have a satisfactory awareness of the Foundation Stage of learning but teaching has some weaknesses which are mainly due to missed opportunities to extend learning and ineffective use of time and resources. Children's behaviour is generally well managed although at times they become bored because their play is not well supported or there is not enough to do. The nursery has no children attending who have special educational needs or English as an additional language and the system to provide support is being developed. Frequent observations are made to aid the assessment of children's learning but this knowledge is not effectively used to inform planning. Plans colour code children into groups relating to their stages of development but in practice this has no impact on the way in which activities are presented to them or the support they receive. The setting has an adequate range of equipment to cover and promote all areas of learning but there are weaknesses in their presentation and accessibility, also their potential to promote learning is not fully explored.

The setting is under new leadership and management which is generally good. They have accurately identified areas for improvement and have begun to implement strategies which are likely to be effective. Staff's professional development will be encouraged. The partnership with parents has weaknesses. At present there are limited opportunities for parents to find out about the forthcoming educational provision or how their child is progressing.

What is being done well?

- the nursery is committed to ongoing improvement
- children enjoy well read stories and listen attentively
- children are polite and co-operate well

What needs to be improved?

- the use of resources and the pace of activities provided to ensure that children always have enough to do and their learning effectively developed
- staff's knowledge of the early learning goals and how to use everyday

activities to help children learn

- planning and assessment to ensure that children's individual needs will be met and that they will receive appropriate support or challenge in their learning
- the information available to parents regarding their children's progress and the planned educational provision.

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 settle quickly as they arrive and persevere with activities, such as mark making. They willingly help to tidy up and show independence in personal hygiene. They are polite and co-operate well with each other and staff enable children to understand that others have different needs, for example in the way they communicate. However, children are unable to access resources unless they have been set out by staff and the pace of activities means that children frequently become bored.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children really enjoy listening to well-presented stories and they sit enthralled. Staff effectively help children to understand that print carries meaning. Very worthwhile stories are chosen but there are lost opportunities to explore the rhyme and alliteration within. Some good reference is made to the sounds that letters make. Children are keen to extend their vocabulary and ask what words mean, staff give clear and helpful answers. Children are keen to make marks and write.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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The children develop some understanding of quantity, for example in their cooking activity where they learn about 'more than' and 'smaller'. Although children are occasionally encouraged to recognise numerals the children are not consistently enabled to understand the concept of the quantity that the numeral represents. There are many lost opportunities to order, sort and count in their everyday activities and to hear and use the correct name for shapes.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children observe the features of the tinned vegetables they use in their soup making and are encouraged to think about the conditions required for growth as they observe the progress of their planted bean. There are many technological toys set out but most are without batteries and do not work. Children's exploration of interlocking shapes and cogs is not adequately supported and they lose opportunities to think about how things work. Opportunities to build and construct are limited.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children develop their small muscles using writing implements and blunt knives, for example to cut up cooking ingredients, demonstrating good control as they transfer ingredients into containers. Scissors and dough are offered occasionally. Obstacle courses are sometimes planned in the playroom, however the more frequently offered outdoor play is purely recreational and ineffective organisation of resources and space means that children's enjoyment and opportunities to learn are limited.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children enjoy singing and dancing along to well known songs and using the group's collection of musical instruments, listening carefully to the music they are accompanying. Domestic role-play is very popular but receives little adult support or encouragement enabling the play to develop. Children have explored textures as part of a specific theme but there is little support for this in everyday play. Opportunities to enjoy free painting are limited.

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

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses. The next inspection will take place in one to two years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- Ensure the assessment system is used effectively to plan the next steps for the children's learning
- Make effective use of time and resources to help develop children's learning
- Increase staff's knowledge of how to use everyday activities to help children learn, also ensure that staff have a secure understanding of the early learning goals and that teaching methods are consistently effective
- Improve the information available to parents regarding their children's progress and the planned educational provision.

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.