



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509195

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	14/04/2004
Inspector Name	Janette Kerr

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Acorns Day Nursery
Setting Address	10 Thornhill Road Off Albany Road Derby Derbyshire DE22 3LX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Associated Nurseries Ltd 04158863
------	-----------------------------------

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Associated Nurseries Ltd
Address	71 Branston Road Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire DE14 3BY

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

Little Acorns Day Nursery opened in 1989, with the current Directors taking responsibility in 1998. It operates from a large converted Victorian house, which is situated within a residential area in the city of Derby. An enclosed outdoor play area is provided. Children and families attend the nursery from Mickleover, Littleover and the surrounding areas of Derby.

There are currently 53 children on the register. This includes 12 funded 3-year-olds and 6 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. All the children attending the nursery speak English as their first language and there are currently no children with special needs attending.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round except for bank holidays and one week at Christmas. The nursery is open from 07:30 until 18:30.

11 part time/full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. Four staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Derby Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association and has achieved their 'Quality Counts' accreditation.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Day Nursery provides good care for children. The management team has a commitment to staff training and to the development of the nursery service. The staff work well together as a team and are involved in planning, evaluation of the nursery practice and are provided with training opportunities. The children are happy and settled and play confidently in their surroundings, they respond well to the nursery routine. There is a good range of resources which are well organised in the play rooms. This ensures a variety of experiences are provided for the children. There is an organised approach to record keeping and effective policies and procedures underpin the smooth running of the setting. Most documentation is satisfactory.

Staff take positive steps to ensure the environment is safe and secure and children's personal hygiene is encouraged, they have a high level of awareness to children's

health and safety. Detailed written policies and procedures promote safety and hygiene in the nursery. Staff demonstrate responsibility and understanding of child protection and are aware of the nursery procedures however they were not aware of up to date procedures. Staff work in partnership with parents to ensure children's dietary needs are met, which is supported by written documentation.

The children are engaged in and enjoy their play; they make decisions as they choose from a range of developmentally appropriate toys and activities. They are provided with an opportunity to make good progress in all areas of their development. The staff have good relationships with the children, they respond well to them and share lots of communication. The children are praised readily and good behaviour is encouraged and valued.

The staff foster good relationships with parents, they are well informed about the provision and their child's progress. Information is shared verbally on a daily basis and is supported by detailed written information.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to ensure the out door area is safe and secure with reference to the concrete storage structure. The concrete storage structure has been repaired ensuring children's safety.

What is being done well?

- All activities provided are based on learning through play and encourage children's individual development. Detailed assessments, records and play plans support children's development and learning.
- Staff have a high level of awareness to children's health and safety, detailed written policies and procedures promote safety and hygiene in the nursery.
- Children's personal hygiene is encouraged. The children know to wash their hands before snack time and confidently explained how they wash and then dry their hands using the soft paper towels.
- The children are happy and confident and their self-esteem is developed well in play and every day activities. The older children confidently take it in turn to read a story to their peer group.
- Detailed written assessments and a daily written record sheet keeps parents well informed about their child's development and their day at the nursery.

What needs to be improved?

- the system to record staff leaving the premises
- staffs knowledge of up to date child protection procedures.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
--

<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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 the staff register to ensure a record is maintained of staff leaving the premises at lunchtime.
13	Ensure that information regarding child protection issues is updated.

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.