



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 227216

DfES Number: 525596

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/01/2004
Inspector Name Zaida Parveen

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Corner House Nursery
Setting Address 94 Lordswood Road
Harborne
Birmingham
West Midlands
B17 9BY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Noreen Siviter

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

The Corner House Private Day Nursery was established in 1988. The nursery is located in the Harborne area of Birmingham and is open 51 weeks a year from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. The nursery receives funding for 3 and 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The nursery occupies a large detached house and the children are accommodated on the ground floor of the property. There is a small safe outdoor area for recreational use that is divided into four fenced sections to accommodate the different ages of the children. A soft play surface has recently being installed under the large play equipment.

The nursery has pet rabbits that are kept in a fenced hutch in an area that is enclosed from the play areas.

How good is the Day Care?

The Corner House Nursery provides satisfactory care for children.

The premises are safe, clean and tidy. The environment is welcoming; children's work is displayed throughout the nursery. There is a wide range of resources, including some that promote positive images. The Children's day is organised to meet their individual needs, children are provided with a balance of interesting and stimulating activities. Some toys and equipment are in reach of the children, due to storage space some not all equipment is at hand. Documentation is maintained, organised and presented in a folder, policies and procedures are regularly reviewed.

The nursery gives satisfactory attention to health and hygiene routines, this practise should continue into baby room. Staffs have a good awareness of hazards both in and outdoors. Positive steps are taken to promote children's safety whilst in their care. Staff attend to children's dietary needs well, specific requirements of individual children are met. Consistent methods of managing children's behaviour, in a positive

manner are practiced.

The nursery works well in partnership with parents and maintains a professional approach. Parents are kept informed through daily conversations, notice boards and newsletters.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- The nursery have good relationships with children, and meet their individual needs.
- There is a good range of toys and equipment for children which are stimulating and interesting
- Regular risk assessments are carried out on the premises both inside and outside.
- There are good procedures for behaviour management, child protection and health & safety. Partnership with parents is good, they are kept informed verbally and in writing of their child's day at nursery.
- Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs and treat all children with equal concern.

What needs to be improved?

- siting of baby changing areas
- risk assessment regarding inaccessibility of areas at risk
- resources that reflect positive images
- staffs' qualifications appropriate to the age range of children they are caring for.

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 |
|-----|--|
| 4 | Ensure baby changing area meets the requirements set by the Enviromental Health department. |
| 2 | Ensure the staff hold qualifications appropriate to the age range of children they are caring for. |
| 4 | Ensure procedures are in place to make areas of risk safe. |
| 7 | Ensure appropriate hygiene practises are in place in the baby area. |
| 9 | Increase resources that reflect positive image of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. |

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Corner House day Nursery offers care where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Sessions are well prepared with good use made of time and resources. Staff encourage the children to become independent by ensuring equipment is readily available, and well organised and children are able to make choices from activities offered. However, limited space and interruptions from other younger age groups and staff hinder the pre-school children's concentration and learning. Activities tend to be adult led. Planning covers all of the early learning goals. Children with English as a second language are well supported with staff using a variety of techniques to ensure communication is effective.

Management and leadership are generally good. Good use is made of the existing staffs skills, and staff are able to access extensive training to extend and update their knowledge. The manager through regular supervision supports staff. Staff attend regular team meetings and annual appraisal. The setting also has regular support from a teacher mentor through the Early Years Development Partnership.

Partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are given detailed written information regarding topics to be covered and changes within the setting. The staff actively encourages parental involvement. A designated area is available for parents to discuss confidentially the individual needs of their children. An exchange of information takes place at the beginning and end of the day.

What is being done well?

- Sessions and activities are well planned and prepared, which allow staff to interact well with the children and support their learning
- Children are able to access a wide range of resources which help them develop their confidence, imagination and independence.
- Staff work well together as a team, attending regular planning meetings to ensure all areas of learning are covered within activities they offer to the children.
- Staff interact well with the parents encouraging them to become actively involved in their children's learning and progress. They ensure time is set aside to discuss children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- Opportunities for children to access working technology

- Organisation of the nursery layout to improve children's spontaneous access to all areas of learning.
- Evaluation of activities children take part in.
- Contingency arrangements for staffing in pre-school.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery has made generally good progress since the last inspection. Staff have attended training, which has improved staff morale and created an enthusiastic and committed staff team.

Changes to planning, and assessments have been made which have benefited the routine of the nursery and progress of the children.

New equipment has been purchased to enhance the children's independent learning

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make generally good progress in this area. They are confident and work well, independently and together. They make decisions and are keen to learn. They take turns and share with others, however, the older children tend to dominate. Children are learning about relationships, behave appropriately and know their boundaries within the setting. Staff promote children's self esteem through re-enforcement and praise.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

There are significant weaknesses in children's progress in this area. Whilst older children are confident speakers and use language well, younger children are overshadowed, and have little interest and confidence. Displays of children's writing are limited. Some children make marks, whilst other more able children write well. Access to writing materials is not always readily available to children due to the layout of the room and space available. However the choice in resources for writing is good.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make generally good progress in this area. They are given opportunities to develop number operations in practical situations, such as at meal times, whilst playing games. Children are familiar with number rhymes and explore the concept of addition and subtraction in a practical way. Whilst children are able to sequence numbers up to 10 with confidence and accuracy, opportunities were missed to extend the more able children.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make generally good progress in this area. Children are able to discuss freely past, present and future events relating to their families and daily lives. Children have the opportunity to explore the features of natural living things through planned activities. IT equipment is available in the setting, but is not currently working or easily accessed. However children are able to explore technology through role play i.e. telephone, calculators etc.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Judgement: | Generally Good |
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Children are making generally good progress in this area. Children are skilled at using a variety of tools and equipment. Children are developing an awareness of developing a healthy lifestyle through good hygiene practices, and appreciating that certain foods promote good health. Planned activities give children the opportunity to practice their gross motor skills i.e. indoor obstacle course. They have a good awareness of their own and each other's space whilst playing.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Judgement: | Generally Good |
|------------|----------------|

Children are making generally good progress in this area. Children respond to and are able to express their preferences in activities and food. Children enjoy participating in a wide range of activities. They are confident in experimenting with paints and other mediums. Children are able to express their thought and feeling through role-play. They engage in musical activities with enthusiasm, enjoying both singing and dancing. Children respond spontaneously to all creative opportunities.

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

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES

- ensure children have the opportunity to access working technology that will increase their understanding and knowledge of the world today.
- provide sufficient opportunities for children to access all areas of learning spontaneously within the setting.
- ensure evaluation activities carried out are used effectively to inform future planning for the development of individual children's learning
- Take positive steps to ensure the progress and learning of the children is not hindered by staff changes or disruptions.

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.