



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 493623

DfES Number: 523712

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/01/2004  
Inspector Name Siobhan O'Callaghan

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Rexton House Nursery and Daycare  
Setting Address The School House  
Church Lane, Aldenham  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD25 8AP

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Rexton House Nursery and Daycare 2712830

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Rexton House Nursery and Daycare  
Address The Mixproud Building  
Church Lane, Aldenham  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD25 8AP

## 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

Rexton House Nursery and Day Care opened in August 2001. It is one of three sister nurseries offering care and education within the Hertsmere area. It operates from a converted building standing within their own grounds, the accommodation is over two floors. There is access to an outside play area. Ample off road parking is available. The nursery is within easy access to the A41 and M1, situated on the edge of Aldenham. The Nursery serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 32 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 11 funded 3 year olds and 5 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens Monday - Friday all year round. They close for two weeks over the Christmas period and Bank holidays. The nursery is open from 8:00 - 19:00, both part time and full time sessions are available.

There are seven part time and four full time staff working with the children. Ten members of staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards an early years degree. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The nursery offers a combination of Montessori and traditional methods of teaching.

### How good is the Day Care?

Rexton House Nursery and Day Care provides a good standard of care for the children.

The nursery benefits from a well qualified team of staff, the majority of whom have been in post for many years. The provision is organised effectively, ensuring children receive good support and are grouped appropriately. The environment is warm and welcoming, children have ample space to move around and access resources

independently. The majority of documentation to ensure the provision operates smoothly is in place.

Children's personal hygiene and safety is given priority, however risk assessments need to be developed. Children are offered healthy and nutritious meals, all of which are cooked on the premises. Parents are not always informed of the vegetarian options. A key worker system ensures all children's individual needs are assessed and met by a key adult, this includes the provision for children with special educational needs and English as an additional language. Children's behaviour is excellent, they are generally calm and co-operative, helping to keep the environment tidy.

Children participate within a broad range of activities, which supports their development within all areas of the curriculum. Children are confident to pursue self-chosen activities and engage enthusiastically within these. Staff offer challenging small group sessions which encourage children to talk, question and think. Positive support is provided for children with special educational needs. Staff have formed secure relationships with the children, they provide positive role models which children respect.

Partnership with parents and carers is valued, the provision has an open door policy where parents are welcomed at any time of the day. Parents are very happy with the care and education their children receive. They feel well informed about their children's progress on a daily basis, as they talk with staff at the end of each day.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff are well deployed, the nursery offers high staff ratios, thus all children receive excellent support and extension.
- The staff effectively plan the routine of the day to allow for efficient periods of both structured and free play sessions. This allows children to develop and explore their own interests.
- The nursery offers a well balanced curriculum, this is complemented by outside professionals offering specialist music and French lessons once a week.
- The environment is child friendly, everything is available at their level. A separate messy play room allows children to explore water, sand and creative activities throughout the day.
- Children are happy and settled within their environment, they are developing secure relationships with staff and their peers. Staff encourage and support children to be independent. This has a positive impact on their self-esteem, and thus the development of their confidence.

**What needs to be improved?**

- documentation, to ensure risk assessments are monitored and carried out regularly.
- information for parents, to ensure they are informed of full menus particularly with regard to vegetarian options.

**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
6	Ensure risk assessments on the premises are conducted regularly to identify and minimize risks.
8	Ensure menus include a vegetarian option.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Rexton House Nursery and Day Care is of high quality overall. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of their development.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a clear knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals. They plan a wide range of stimulating activities, ensuring a balanced curriculum and opportunities for play and more formal structured sessions. Staff have developed effective questioning skills, encouraging children to think and question. There is good provision to support children with special educational needs, and for those who have English as a second language. Staff are calm and consistent with the children.

Staff are maintaining informative assessments on all children, however these are not updated on a regular basis. Assessments are utilised to inform future planning, staff have a sound awareness of how their key children are making progress and how to move them on to the next stage.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. Staff are well deployed, offering children small group sessions which enable them to have efficient support to extend their all round learning. Staff are committed to evaluating and developing their practice, which is encompassed through on-going training and regular team meetings. The manager is hoping to develop a staff appraisal system, which will further promote her staff's professional development.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents receive valuable information about the setting and the education programme followed. Written curriculum plans are displayed for parents, they are encouraged to participate by bringing items in from home to complement the current topic. Children's on-going work is sent home weekly for parents to review and add comments to, if they wish.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is effectively fostered throughout the provision. Children are confident, independent and interested in their play and work. Their behaviour is excellent.
- Children can express themselves well, they speak clearly and fluently. A strong emphasis is given to language and literacy as well as mathematics. These are effectively presented to the children both in practical and more structured sessions.
- Children are presented with a wide range of well planned, interesting and challenging activities. Staff ensure children are developing at their own level, older and more able children are supported well to extend their learning

potential.

- The nursery has a positive approach to the integration of children with special educational needs. Appropriate liaison with parents and outside professionals ensures children receive the support they need to meet their individual milestones.
- Staff have established good relationships with the children, they are calm and patient, sitting at the children's level and encouraging their efforts. They have developed effective teaching methods to challenge children, enabling them to question and think.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the regularity of assessments, to ensure these are updated on a regular basis and shared with parents.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Generally good progress has been made in implementing the action plan drawn up to address a point for consideration identified at the previous inspection. Staff were unable to develop growing within the outside flower beds, due to the poor soil. However children now have opportunities to tend plants and grow herbs within the nursery, this is a popular activity, in which children are keen to participate. Photographs of the children reinforce this. Additional teaching plans for physical education were also highlighted as an area for improvement, this area of learning is now encompassed within all written plans.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidently access their environment and approach staff for support or recognition. They show good levels of concentration during both large and small group sessions. Children are excited at the prospect of tasting cereals, and confidently express their favourites. Children can take turns playing a matching game, and play co-operatively with the farm animals. They are keen to help tidy up at the end of sessions, and to pour their own milk at snack time. Their behaviour is very good.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children interact effectively with staff and each other, they can express themselves competently. Children enjoy stories, they listen attentively and are keen to share their thoughts with regards to the events, "He is dreaming, it is not really happening," suggested one child. Children can do alphabet puzzles using their knowledge of letters and the sounds they make. Older children can write their names and draw with a purpose, whilst younger children develop good skills to enable writing.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently to 10, older children to 20 and beyond. They can select 19 as today's date and 2004 for the current year. Children are able to sequence and write numbers to 10 in their correct order. Good opportunities are available for children to explore calculation, shape, space and measure through practical cooking sessions as well as structured group sessions. Children discuss the three bears having large, medium and small sized beds, and which is the longest and shortest.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have opportunities to grow and care for plants and herbs. They can observe the weather and comment on aspects of this, such as it is windy and cold. Children know that if ice cream is placed on a hot pancake it will melt. They are confident of their routines of the day, and recall past topics. Children are developing ICT skills with the provision of appropriate resources. French lessons and topics introduce children to a full range of cultures and beliefs extending their experiences.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently to the action rhyme, 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'. They are careful not to bump into each other, holding their arms outstretched to ensure they cannot touch anyone. Children can run on the spot and jump up and down with good control. They are learning about the importance of staying healthy through topics. Children are helped to use knives to cut fruit. They can effectively do small puzzles, build with large and small construction and use scissors for cutting.

## CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can explore the texture, shape and form of play dough, paint, sand and water. A designated creative arts room supports this area well. Children enjoy singing, circle games and music sessions in which they enthusiastically participate. They play meaningfully within the role-play area, which is currently the three bears house. Children are absorbed within tasting activities, they delight in discussing what cereals and fruit they prefer, and what they like to eat at home.

**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:*

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- To maintain the high standards of the education programme by increasing the regularity of children's assessments, to ensure these are updated on a regular basis, and shared with parents.

*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.*