



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY233082

DfES Number: 555816

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/01/2004
Inspector Name Patricia Joan Latham

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Abbeys Day Nursery
Setting Address Melrose Avenue
Bletchley
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK3 6PS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Acorn Childcare Ltd 2561855

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Acorn Childcare Ltd
Address Wesley House
South Street
Castlethorpe
Milton Keynes
MK19 7EL

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

Abbeys Day Nursery is part of Acorn Childcare Limited and has been registered since 2002. It operates from a building attached to Abbeys Combined School in Bletchley, Milton Keynes. The nursery offers full day care as well as a before and after school club with holiday play scheme. It is open Monday to Friday, 08.00 until 18.00, for 51 weeks of the year. Both provisions will accept children from out of the school's catchment area.

The nursery has exclusive use of two large rooms, a utility room, toilets and a fenced outside area. The out of school club use a school classroom and the school hall, both reached by a corridor from the nursery.

The nursery is in receipt of nursery education funding and there are presently nine three-year-old and four four-year-old children receiving funding. There are a total of 33 children under five years, and 13 school age children, presently on roll. There are currently no children attending who have a stated educational need or who speak English as a second language, although there is a designated staff member available to support such children.

There is a staff team of nine, led by a nursery manager, who all have a range of qualifications and training.

How good is the Day Care?

Abbeys Day Nursery provides good care for children. All staff have relevant training and the nursery is managed well to ensure children's care. There are written policies and procedures for staff to follow which cover most eventualities. The premises are bright and welcoming and staff organise the space well. The provision provides good quality resources to support children's play suitable for all ages.

Staff maintain all areas safely and children's safety is given a high priority. Food provided for children is of good quality and all dietary requirements are met. Food for the after school children is prepared in the nursery. Staff encourage children to

develop good personal hygiene, and procedures ensure that children's good health is maintained. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and a procedure for referring concerns regarding children's welfare. However this policy is not made known to parents.

The nursery provides a good balance of well planned activities for all children. Staff ensure that all children's developmental needs are met and that all children are included. Children's behaviour is managed well. A non-discriminatory environment is encouraged with staff encouraging children to develop a respect for themselves and others.

The nursery forms a good partnership with parents who are kept very well informed about their children's care. All documentation is updated regularly and stored securely.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Activities provided for all ages are interesting and fun. Babies have access to a range of sensory play and older ones also have opportunities to take part in well planned creative and imaginary play activities. The after school club provides activities to meet the differing interests of those attending with extended activities provided during the holidays.
- There is a wide range of resources provided to support children's play and development. They are easily accessible to children and of good quality. There is sufficient provided to ensure all children that wish to can take part in the activities.
- Children's behaviour is managed well. All children are given clear, consistent guidelines to follow and appropriate strategies are used to encourage good behaviour. Staff give all children lots of praise and older children are given responsibility to organise some activities to help them develop good codes of conduct.
- There is a good partnership formed with parents and regular meetings are arranged to keep them informed about the development of their children. Staff complete daily diaries for babies and all staff are available each day to talk to parents. This ensures continuity of care for children.

What needs to be improved?

- information for parents, so that they are made aware of the nursery's child protection procedures
- the establishment of a written procedure for staff to follow in the case of a lost child.

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
13	Make written statement of child protection policy and procedures available for parents.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Abbeys Day Nursery provides good quality education. Children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. They make very good progress in personal, emotional, social and creative development and generally good progress in other areas.

Quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan a variety of interesting, stimulating activities. They have a knowledge of the early learning goals although not all have a thorough understanding of the Foundation Stage stepping stones. This limits the way they reinforce children's learning in some activities. Children are allowed time to freely choose and complete their activities; the programme offered is flexible to allow for children's spontaneous play. However resources are not always provided during some free play activities to enable children to reinforce their learning in certain areas. The assessment of children's progress is carried out regularly and used effectively to ensure children's individual needs are met. Although there are currently no children attending with a statemented educational need, or who speak English as a second language, there are policies and procedures in place to ensure such children are supported well. Children's behaviour is managed well. Staff give clear explanations, lots of praise and acknowledge children's good behaviour so that children learn good codes of conduct.

Leadership and management within the nursery is generally good. The staff work as a team and are deployed well. The nursery manager also has responsibility for implementing the curriculum which results in some tasks, such as the overall evaluation of activities and planning, being done informally. This is not effective in ensuring focussed learning activities are being carried out.

Partnership with parents is very good and they have many opportunities to be informed of their child's progress. They are encouraged to become involved with children's learning and staff are always available to speak with them

What is being done well?

- Children are happy and motivated to learn. Staff provide activities that are fun and stimulating which encourages children's involvement.
- Staff enable children to gain a wide use of language to express themselves. They encourage the use of role play to expand children's vocabulary and develop communication skills.
- Practical activities are used to develop children's understanding of numbers. Opportunities are taken throughout all activities to encourage children to count and recognise numbers.
- Staff encourage children's creative development. Children are offered a range of activities and resources to develop their imagination and express

their ideas.

- Parents are kept well informed concerning their child's progress. There are many opportunities for them to discuss their children with staff which provides a strong link for children between home and the nursery.

What needs to be improved?

- the availability of resources in free play activities to support children's learning and development especially in letter writing and recreating simple patterns.
- staff's understanding of the Foundation Stage stepping stones to enable them to promote learning throughout the full range of activities offered.
- the monitoring and evaluation of the curriculum to ensure all learning objectives are achieved.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and eager to learn. Staff encourage their personal independence and help develop their self esteem. Children listen attentively to stories and to each other and concentrate well to complete tasks. They work well together as a group, supporting each other in completing activities, such as building a plane to visit differing countries and serving food at snack time. They behave well together, respecting each other, sharing resources and caring for one another.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's use of language is developing well and they are becoming confident communicators. They are expanding their vocabulary and through role play are enabled to express their ideas freely. Planned activities enable them to develop skills in letter recognition, however, there are missed opportunities for them to practise handwriting or letter formation through the range of free play activities offered. Children's reading skills are encouraged and they have access to a range of books.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Staff encourage children's understanding and recognition of numbers throughout all activities. All children count well, calculating how many pieces of toast to give out or what numbers to select for the relevant date. Their understanding of shape and position is encouraged through activities such as shape treasure hunts. There are missed opportunities for them to recognise and recreate simple patterns, as planned activities are sometimes missed or not used effectively.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children explore interesting topics to increase their awareness of the world around them. These include topics about themselves, their bodies and healthy eating, as well as activities about others and differing cultures. Children are encouraged to design and build with a variety of materials and use a range of technical equipment. There is a computer available but children are not always encouraged to use it.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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There are planned activities to encourage children to develop co-ordination and control. They take part in musical movement and yoga. Children learn to use a range of small and large tools and equipment and have the opportunity, through outdoor play, to gain an understanding of space and how to move safely. They have limited opportunity to develop climbing and balancing skills through regular use of a climbing frame or to practise scissor control as resources are not always readily available.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are offered many differing opportunities to explore and recreate their ideas and feelings. They paint in various ways and experiment with colour. Children explore a range of textures and take part in song and dance. Staff encourage their imagination by providing opportunities for role play and resources for them to build and recreate objects.

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

- extend staff's knowledge of the Foundation Stage stepping stones to enable them to support children's learning throughout the range of activities offered.
- Make available resources more easily accessible during free play to enable children to practise developing skills especially in letter writing and recreating simple patterns.

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.