



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 131709

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/01/2005
Inspector Name Gulnaz Hassan

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name MARS Montessori School
Setting Address 4 Collins Yard
London
N1 2XU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name MARS Montessori School Limited 04587383

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name MARS Montessori School Limited
Address 4 Collins Yard
Islington
London
N1 2XU

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

MARS Montessori Nursery School opened in 2000. It operates from two rooms on the ground floor of a four storey building in the London Borough of Islington. The nursery school serves the local area.

There are currently 28 children from two to four years on roll. This includes 13 funded three-year-olds and 4 funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs, and who speak English as

an additional language.

The group opens five days a week for 48 weeks during the year. The nursery school is open from 08:00 hours until 18:00hours.

Five full time and one part time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from a mentor from Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The group practice the Montessori principles and methods of teaching.

How good is the Day Care?

MARS Montessori Nursery School provides good care for children.

The group have a sound understanding of the national standards and have interpreted them in the best interests of the children. The children are happy and settled, and relate well to other children and to the staff. There are opportunities for children to explore and learn in an environment that is safe and secure. Children are able to gain access to a wide range of resources and activities. The record keeping, policies and procedures are detailed and well organised with one omission.

The group have taken all necessary health and safety precautions to ensure the health and safety of the children whilst they are in their care. The staff promote hygiene well, the premises are clean and well maintained and children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene skills. The group plan menus to provide a varied and well balanced diet that caters to individual needs. Children

have equal access to all the provision and are interested in activities provided and play happily. The group are aware of the importance of meeting all children's needs including those with disabilities and special needs. They have a good understanding of child protection and most procedures are available.

The children engage in a broad range of activities which are interesting and exciting and the staff interact well with children, talking and playing with them to support their all round development and learning. The group have a consistent approach to managing children's behaviour and they set reasonable boundaries for children that takes account of their age and level of understanding.

The group have positive and productive relationships with parents. Information is shared about the children's welfare and development on a daily and regular basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the nursery school agreed to ensure that effective procedures were available for checking that staff are suitably qualified and experienced to work with children and to develop an action plan setting out how training and qualification requirements will be met, to ensure the premises are clean and well maintained, to ensure children are provided with suitable privacy when using the toilet area, to ensure that all records relating to day care are readily accessible, to record information about children's individual needs and preferences, to provide opportunities for parents to receive regular information about their children and to establish written agreements with parents. All requirements have been met to a suitable and appropriate standard.

What is being done well?

- The range of learning experiences and opportunities available for children including regular outings into the community and the resources that are organised so that children are able to easily access play materials for themselves.
- Premises are kept secure. There are effective systems in place for the arrival and collection of children. There are extensive risk assessments in place to ensure the safety of the children in the premises and outside.
- The group provide parents and carers with a range of information about activities, routines and procedures in the form of a weekly diary. Parents are invited to attend regular meetings, receive bi-monthly newsletters and verbal feedback regularly.
- The group have a good system for planning and implementing a suitable range of learning and play activities for children, that is appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs

What needs to be improved?

- the detail of the daily register to include arrival and departure times
- the child protection policies to include procedures in the event of allegations about staff.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

N/A

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
2	ensure that the attendance register includes details of arrival and departure times
13	develop procedures to be followed in the event of allegations of abuse against staff

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.