



Mon Ami Children's Nursery

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY287848
Inspection date 17 May 2005
Inspector Melanie Arnold

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Type of inspection Integrated
Type of care Full day care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Mon Ami Nursery is one of two nurseries run by the same provider. It opened in 2004 and operates from converted residential premises in Boston. The premises consists of 4 play rooms to cater for children of differing ages, sleep room, separate toilet facilities for both staff and children,

office, laundry room, kitchen and an enclosed outdoor area for outside play. A maximum of 55 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open

each weekday from 07.00 to 18.30 for 51 weeks of the year, with the exception of bank holidays.

There are currently 39 children aged from birth to under 5 years on roll. Of these 7 children receive funding for nursery education. Children mainly come from the local area to attend the nursery.

The nursery employs eight staff. Six of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy because of effective hygiene routines and practices implemented by the staff. Within each room a child height sink is available which helps children to develop their hand washing skills from an early age. Older children are aware of the daily routine, with regard to hand washing and wash their hands with little assistance from staff. Therefore, children's health is promoted well. Staff and parent's follow the informative policies and procedures concerning health issues, which ensures children's health is promoted and helps to prevent the spread of any infection. Children are safe and settled while they sleep. A separate cot room is available for younger children, giving them space in which they can rest peacefully and without distraction. Older children, who still need a sleep, are provided with a quieter area in their base room so they too can rest or sleep according to their needs. Staff know children well and ensure they have their own comforter when settling them down for a sleep. They also regularly check children while they are sleeping to ensure they are safe and well. Children enjoy physical activities both inside and out. Children join in with a good range of action songs inside and they also have access to a good sized outdoor area, where they can run, play or ride on toys, etc to promote their well-being. However, children's physical skills are not always fully developed as they do not consistently have access to an appropriate range of resources outside. Children are starting to become aware of how physical activities affects their bodies and makes them feel. Children enjoy and benefit from home cooked nutritious meals, which meets their dietary requirements. All meals are well presented, with fresh vegetables served alongside the main meal so children are developing an awareness of healthy eating. Good social skills are also developed as children sit and eat their meals together. The nursery offers children drinks of milk or water only, this results in children's dental health being promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised environment. They are kept safe because of the settings informative risks assessments, which have been put in place to identify potential hazards and steps taken to minimise these risks. They enjoy playing

with well maintained and age appropriate toys and equipment. Children remain safe and secure at the setting due to the effective security systems including a CCTV system and a video intercom system at the entrance to monitor access. Good procedures are also in place for collecting children, ensuring they do not come into contact with unauthorised people. Fire safety precautions and procedures are good, which further ensures the safety of children. Children are well protected by staff who have a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures, which ensures children's welfare is maintained at all times. However, the policy does not currently address the issue concerning allegations against staff.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time at the nursery. They are settled and relaxed in their environment. Children's skills are developed through the good range of activities planned for them in each room. Assessments are also completed on all children to chart their development and progress. Children are cared for in separate rooms depending on their age and abilities ensuring their individual needs are met. A good range of toys and resources are stored at child height enabling younger children to freely access them promoting their independence. Babies receive appropriate attention to meet their needs. Staff interact well with the babies, sitting on the floor and playing with them, they listen and respond appropriately to their attempts at communication. This results in babies feeling secure and also helps to develop their early communication skills. Babies express themselves and explore textures, for example through messy activities like jelly or custard play. They are beginning to develop an awareness of themselves as they enjoy looking at their reflection in the mirrors positioned within the baby room. Children over two are again confident with their carers. They enthusiastically join in with activities, with their communication skills developed as staff listen and value what they say. They are progressing well in all areas and are developing their independence through planned activities and the daily routine.

Nursery education.

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Staff have a secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage enabling children to make generally good progress. Short, medium and long term plans are in place and activities are evaluated to assess their effectiveness. However, children are not always progressing satisfactorily to the next stage in their development because evaluation and assessments are not being consistently used. Children are also not developing to their full potential in all areas of learning due to the emphasis of staff direction of activities and limited opportunities being provided for them to choose resources independently. Children are settled and confident in the group. They concentrate generally well and are eager to participate in activities. They are beginning to show an awareness of the needs of others as they wait patiently for their turn and also an awareness of their own needs as they independently visit the toilet or wash their hands after activities. Children's behaviour is generally good and children are learning right from wrong as they are encouraged to apologise for any inappropriate actions. They communicate effectively with their

peers and the staff, and are able to confidently express their needs. All children can recognise their name and some children are beginning to link letter sounds to words. Children can count confidently up to nine and are beginning to recognise numbers. They are able to compare sizes of objects and state correctly which is bigger or smaller and some children are beginning to calculate using small numbers. Children show a good understanding of a sense of time and also show an interest in their environment. Their physical skills are being promoted through the planned activities provided and through everyday occurrences, i.e. getting dressed or using the correct utensils skilfully to eat their meals. Children use their imagination in play and enjoy craft activities where they are free to express themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed in their environment and they respond well to staff. A key worker system is used so children get to know their carers and can feel relaxed and confident in their surroundings. This also enables staff to cater effectively for children's individual needs. Children are respected and valued as individuals and staff are aware of procedures to follow when identifying a child's special needs and would ensure extra help and support was provided to meet their needs. Children are developing their understanding of the wider world through access to an appropriate range of resources reflecting diversity. Themes covering multi-cultural events are also completed to extend children's knowledge. Children's behaviour is generally good. They respond well to effective praise and encouragement offered by staff, which promotes their self esteem. Appropriate strategies are in place that take in to account children's age/stage of development, when dealing with any unwanted behaviour. Children are beginning to learn right from wrong when encouraged by staff to apologise for any actions they may have taken inappropriately. Children wait patiently for their turn showing an awareness of their peers and they interact well with each other. This enables children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to be fostered. Partnership with parents is good, children benefit from the nursery working well and forming an effective partnership with parents. Good information is provided for parents on the nurseries policies, procedures and educational curriculum. Parents are kept fully informed of relevant information, their child's activities and progress through information displayed on notice boards and staff using both verbal and written forms of communication to inform them of their child's day. Parents evenings are organised at regular intervals throughout the year to enable parents to discuss their child's progress with staff and to also view their assessment records.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A well organised, caring environment is provided for children to effectively meet their needs. Leadership and management of the setting is good with the manager continually assessing and evaluating the provision to ensure children's well being, care and education are maintained. The nursery is well organised with children split

into different rooms according to their age/stage of development. Each room contains the appropriate equipment and resources to meet children's needs. All records are completed appropriately and informative policies and procedures are in place to ensure children's needs are met. Continuity of care for children is maintained well due to the effective recruitment, induction and appraisal system the nursery has in place. Children further benefit from staff developing and keeping up to date with current childcare practices as they are continually monitored and attend relevant training courses. Overall, the nursery effectively meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure an appropriate range of resources are always available during outside play to enable children to fully develop their physical skills
- ensure the child protection policy contains information relating to allegations made against staff

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- establish an effective system to consistently evaluate activities and use assessments to ensure individual children progress on to the next stages of

development

- ensure children have a balance of free play and adult led activities so children are able to participate in a full range of activities which promotes learning in all areas.

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