

# Inspection report

## Viewpark Montessori Nursery School Day Care of Children

The Apple Centre  
10 Earn Avenue  
Bellshill ML4 3LW

**Inspected by:** Elaine Montgomery  
**(Care Commission Officer)**

**Type of inspection:** Announced

**Inspection completed on:** 7 March 2006

**Service Number**

CS2005103051

**Service name**

Viewpark Montessori Nursery School

**Service address**

The Apple Centre  
10 Earn Avenue  
Bellshill ML4 3LW

**Provider Number**

SP2005007688

**Provider Name**

Alphabet Village Limited

**Inspected By**

Elaine Montgomery  
Care Commission Officer

**Inspection Type**

Announced

**Inspection Completed**

7 March 2006

**Period since last inspection**

16 months

**Local Office Address**

South West Region  
60 Castle Street  
Hamilton, ML3 6BU.

## **Introduction**

Viewpark Montessori Nursery School is registered to care for 52 children aged 0 to 5 years of age. On the morning of the inspection visit, 46 children attended the nursery.

The service operates from self contained premises and provides full-time and part-time nursery places from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year.

The nursery was first registered in 2002. However, the nursery recently changed ownership and this was the first inspection under this new management.

The nursery consists of an entrance hallway, three main playrooms, toilets, kitchen, storage, office and staff accommodation and a large purpose built, fully enclosed outdoor play area. All areas were bright, well maintained, organised and met high standards of cleanliness throughout.

The nursery aims to help children reach their full potential, encouraging them to be happy, confident, calm, purposeful, free and independent. They aim to promote children's interests and awareness for others and the world around them. To nurture self-worth, develop the whole child and make children's welfare and development their priority.

## **Basis of Report**

This report was written following an announced visit by two Care Commission Officers which took place between 8.45am and 2.30pm on Tuesday 7th March 2006.

Before the visit:

- The service sent a Pre Inspection Return containing information about the service.
- The service also sent a self-evaluation form.

During the visit the Care Commission Officers spoke with:

- The nursery owner, the manager, child-care staff, parents and children.

The Care Commission Officers looked at a range of policies, procedures and records including the following:

- Emergency procedures
- Child protection policy
- Equal opportunities policy
- Behaviour management
- Complaints procedure
- Parental information
- Fire procedures

The Care Commission Officers carried out an examination of the premises and observed staff working with the children.

The Care Commission Officers considered all of the above information and reported on whether the service was meeting the following National Care Standards for early education and child-care up to the age of 16:

- Standard 2 A safe environment
- Standard 4: Engaging with children
- Standard 5: Quality of experience
- Standard 6: Support and development
- Standard 14: Well managed service.

## **Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report**

N/A

## **Comments on Self-Evaluation**

The self-evaluation was completed and returned prior to the inspection date. A wide range of information reflecting the strengths and areas for development were identified.

## **View of Service Users**

Throughout the inspection, children appeared happy, motivated and interacted well with the staff.

## **View of Carers**

Twelve questionnaires were returned by parents. These contained a number of very positive comments on the service.

The responses were very complimentary and supportive of the staff, the range of resources, the quality of meals and snacks and the variety of opportunities offered to the children. One parent expressed some concerns and these were fully discussed during the inspection.

The Officers also spoke with a number of parents during the inspection. Each parent stated that they were very happy with the level of care, communication and support given by staff to their children.

## **Regulations / Principles**

### **National Care Standards**

#### **National Care Standard Number 2: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - A Safe Environment**

##### **Strengths**

A secure entry system was in place and all visitors could be seen by a member of staff before gaining access to the premises.

The nursery was bright, welcoming and well maintained. Within the entrance area, staff photographs, samples of children's work and a range of information for parents and visitors was effectively displayed.

All playrooms were planned and well organised and children were able to play independently and within groups.

The enclosed outdoor play area was in regular use and offered opportunities for energetic physical play.

Resources within each playroom were appropriate to the children's needs, well maintained, clean and organised.

Appropriate policies and procedures were in place for the control of infection and staff encouraged children to develop good hygiene practices.

The fire alarms were tested and regular fire drills were practiced and records maintained. Emergency and contingency procedures were in place and risk assessment records were maintained.

##### **Areas for Development**

None identified during this inspection.

#### **National Care Standard Number 4: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Engaging with children**

##### **Strengths**

Staff were aware of children's individual interests and activities were planned to meet a range of needs and interests.

Staff were sensitive to children's particular needs and engaged them in regular conversations and discussions.

Staff ensured activities were age and stage appropriate with opportunities for free play and self selection.

Staff were supportive, enthusiastic and participated in the activities with the children throughout the inspection.

Staff observations of children were recorded and these records influenced the next steps for learning and development.

Positive behaviour management practices were observed and an appropriate behaviour management policy was in place.

Staff shared information informally with parents at the start and end of each session. Staff also maintained daily diaries for parents of younger children.

The nursery provided parents with newsletters to ensure information on current developments and topics was shared.

The nursery intends to introduce additional consultation meetings throughout the year for parents of all ages of children.

### **Areas for Development**

None identified during this inspection.

## **National Care Standard Number 5: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Quality of Experience**

### **Strengths**

The nursery provided a variety of resources and opportunities for learning which reflected children's age and stages of develop.

Children selected from creative materials, construction, puzzles, books, imaginative, sensory and physical activities.

The service made effective use of natural materials, the environment, natural daylight and views from playroom windows.

Outdoor play was provided and a range of equipment and activities were available.

Additional resources have been installed within the outdoor area and this area is part of the nursery's ongoing development.

Staff observed children's progress and development and outcomes were used to inform children's future learning needs.

The nursery encouraged self selection and the layout of resources was planned to ensure accessibility to all ages of children.

The nursery timetabled their daily sessions to include free play, adult led activities, music and singing, rest periods and snack times. However, staff stated they had a flexible approach to all planned activities and these could be changed at any time to best meet the needs of the children.

### **Areas for Development**

None identified during this inspection.

## **National Care Standard Number 6: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Support and Development**

### **Strengths**

Families benefited from good settling-in procedures and continuity of care was ensured through the consistency of staff working within the nursery and ongoing liaison between staff and parents.

Parents and children were met and welcomed by a member of staff at the start and close of each session.

Children's needs and preferences were regularly discussed. Newsletters were also issued to ensure parents were informed of events and children's progress.

A suggestions box was available for parents wishing to offer their views on the service.

Staff were sensitive to the needs of families and individual circumstances and worked closely with parents to support the needs of all children in their care.

The nursery had established relationships with some support agencies and services and

liaison with local primary schools was encouraged.

Staff stated that individual or particular communication needs of children and parents would be accommodated and supported by the service.

### **Areas for Development**

None identified during this inspection.

## **National Care Standard Number 14: Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16 - Well-Managed Service**

### **Strengths**

The nursery management team demonstrated a high level of professional competence, skills and understanding of childcare issues.

The service ensured records, policies and procedures were in accordance with national and local guidance and included necessary information.

Staff and children's records were kept secure and confidentiality was maintained.

The entrance area and notice boards displayed policies and procedures and a range of useful and current information on their particular service.

An annual staff appraisal system was in place and members of staff had attended courses and advanced childcare training since the last inspection.

Staff meetings were planned and minutes recorded.

Staff worked well as a team, appeared enthusiastic and supportive of each other and demonstrated committed to their work.

Recent changes in ownership and management had been supported by staff and the changeover had been implemented with minimum disruption to the service.

The management team ensured that they were available to parents, staff and children at all times and encouraged open communication and information sharing on all levels.

### **Areas for Development**

The complaints procedure did not include a timescale for response. Management agreed to add this to the procedure immediately.

**Enforcement**

There has been no enforcement action taken against this service.

**Other Information**

The Care Commission Officers advised that the procedures for the administration and storage of medicines should be reviewed to ensure confidentiality of all information, full details of treatment procedures, the times doses are administered and written parental consents are fully maintained for all treatments. Management agreed to review their procedures.

**Requirements**

There were no requirements.

**Recommendations**

There were no recommendations.

**Elaine Montgomery**  
**Care Commission Officer**