



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 228989

DfES Number: 510927

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 22/04/2004
Inspector Name Susan Rogers

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Little Folk's Day Nursery
Setting Address 108-110 Gravelly Hill
Erdington
Birmingham
W Midlands

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Pravina Patel

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

Little Folk's Day Nursery opened in 1959 . It operates from two converted Victorian semi-detached houses in the Erdington district of Birmingham. The nursery serves the local areas of Erdington, Neachells, Stockland Green, Tamworth and Coventry.

There are currently 110 children from 3 months to eight years on roll. This includes nine funded three-year-olds and two 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 all year round. Sessions are from 07:00 until 18:00.

Fifteen full time staff work with the children. All of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a level three recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Little Folks Day Nursery offers good quality care for children. The premises are warm and welcoming for both parents and children. Organisation is effective with spacious provision for the different age groups and abilities. Equipment is varied and of a good quality. Staff use the equipment to stimulate children and provide for their different developmental needs. There is a comprehensive recruitment and induction procedure for staff. Documentation is well organised and is subject to a review process. Children's details are stored securely.

Staff are vigilant of children's safety through constant supervision and an understanding of the risk factors that are present. A school collection service is well organised providing a generous staff ratio which ensures the safety of children. Most

routines are effective in preventing the spread of infections. The food is well presented and served at regular intervals and provides children with a good nutritional balance. Staff have a good insight into the individual needs of children and resources and equipment. Activities are used well to offer children positive images of alternative lifestyles and cultures. Staff have a good understanding of the DfESS code of practice and have established effective links with support services and networks. Staff have a good understanding of the referral and monitoring process for child protection.

Staff have a good understanding of effective behaviour management and promote this through their encouragement and consistent praise of children.

Children understand that positive behaviour is rewarded and are considerate of each other's feelings. Staff support children learning and children are stimulated in a variety of activities. Staff have a good insight into the individual needs of children.

The parental role is valued with an effective partnership that encourages parents to be involved in many of the nursery activities. Parents are well informed of their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable as there were no actions raised at the last inspection

What is being done well?

- The care of children including young babies is very good. There is a good understanding of the individual needs of the child. Staff are skilled at offering activities that are well suited to the age and ability of the child. Children are happy in their environment and enjoy the activities.
- Staff have a good understanding of the different cultural and social backgrounds within which the children live. Resources toys and equipment give several examples of positive images and offer children an accurate reflection of society.
- Effective networks have been established with other agencies that can support the nursery in the care of children with special needs. There is a good understanding of how children can be included in the setting and staff are knowledgeable regarding their means of supporting the child and carers.
- Children behave well and understand that there is an accepted code of practice that is acceptable within the nursery. Staff praise children's positive behaviour and develop activities and games that encourage the children's emotional maturity.
- Parents are encouraged to participate and offer their support in nursery activities. Staff are very approachable and spend time with parents to find out how they can best meet the needs of their child. Regular information is exchanged between staff and parents through newsletters and conversations. There is a well-resourced entrance area where parents can

borrow books or leaflets.

- Documentation is well presented and is regularly reviewed. Parents have access to all policies as they are displayed in the entrance area.

What needs to be improved?

- children's everyday hygiene routines
- safety aspects of the fire doors.

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
7	Ensure staff implement hygiene procedures to stop cross infection.
6	Ensure risk assessments are carried out to ensure childrens safety regarding the fire doors.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Little Folk's Day Nursery offers day care where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Children are making very good progress in the areas of communication language and literacy, personal and social development, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development and creative development.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff offer children thorough explanations regarding the appropriate use of resources and provide challenging activities and games to encourage the development of children's emotional maturity. There is effective support for children who have English as a second language through bilingual staff and the effective labelling of resources with both text and symbols. Staff effectively build on children's prior knowledge when introducing a new topic. Assessments are descriptive plot against the early learning goals and are used to inform planning. Planning is comprehensive and covers all of the early learning goals. Staff have a good understanding of children who have special needs, they work alongside the other agencies that are involved and participate in the implementing of the individual education programme.

Management and leadership are very good. Training for staff is thorough, monitored and staff are encouraged to evaluate their training. The manager has an active hands on role and has a good overview and understanding of the setting and the strengths and abilities of her staff.

The partnership with parents is very good; there is an informative welcome area with useful literature that supports the parent's role by keeping them well informed of parenting issues. Staff are aware of the varying needs of support that different parents need. There are regular exchanges of information between parents and staff through newsletters, open days and through informal chats. Parents are encouraged, and some are actively involved in the activities within the nursery.

What is being done well?

- Children have good communication skills they speak well with a well balanced vocabulary.
- Children are independent and behave well. Responses to any challenges and activities encourage children's emotional maturity and are well chosen by staff.
- Partnership with parents is very good; there are many opportunities for parents to become involved in nursery activities.
- Children are encouraged to be adventurous in their physical activities resulting in children developing good understanding of their physical potential.

What needs to be improved?

- four-year-old children's understanding of the basic concepts of calculation through addition and subtraction.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are well motivated and are enthusiastic in their approach to learning. They are considerate of each other's needs and frequently offer to help one another. They understand when their behaviour is unacceptable and that there are benefits to positive behaviour. They are very independent and most of the more able children can dress and undress themselves during dressing up sessions. Children understand that they need to take turns and many have established friendships within their group.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident in their language skill and use time well to communicate with each other. They speak well within larger groups and use a wide vocabulary to describe their experiences and ideas. The children can recognise a broad range of initial letter sounds and most can recognise their name. They understand the purpose of written text and have use of different writing materials. Some more able children can write recognisable letters and many can write their name.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are well able to use positional language to describe size shape and quantity. They recognise and understand the purpose of numerals and are able to use number in practical every day situations. They understand the purpose of regular patterns and can relate this to aspects of organisation. There are limited opportunities for the more able four-year-old children to understand the concepts of calculation through everyday situations and play opportunities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are comfortable in using different types of technology and understand that there is a purpose to technology in their every day lives. They are able to use a variety of construction materials to design and build three-dimensional objects. They are beginning to understand the concepts of time and place, and use this to understand dates, months and days of the week. They have a good awareness of different cultures and appreciate that different people have different beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are skilled at travelling through and under, and some children are able to support their own weight when using large climbing equipment. They recognise that their bodies change whilst exercising and understand that they need to rest to eliminate these changes. Children are proficient in using a variety of small equipment and demonstrate good dexterity during paint and craft activities. They are mindful of other children and are confident in negotiating their own space.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are confident when they sing songs from memory, and can match their movements to music. They are confident in using a variety of materials to create images that meet their needs of expression. They understand that they can describe different sensations and experiences and understand that people can express different feelings through their facial expressions. They are confident in using their imagination to create different scenarios in role-play and in art and design.

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

- increase staff awareness of how they can provide more opportunities during everyday activities for the more able four-year-old children, to understand the basic concepts of calculation through addition and subtraction.

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.