

First Class Nurseries

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY240256
Inspection date	19 July 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Barton
Setting Address	St Mary's School, Oakfield Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7LX
Telephone number	01278 424450
E-mail	
Registered person	Denise Jane Meeks and Lisa Anne Coram
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

First Class Nurseries opened in 2002. It is privately owned and jointly operated by two managers. The nursery has a purpose built building which is situated on the St. Mary's Primary school site in Bridgwater, Somerset and serves the local community. The building consists of an entrance, two main playrooms, a quiet room, office, kitchen and toilet facilities. Children are able to access an adjacent tarmac and grassed area for outdoor play.

The nursery is open five days a week for 50 weeks of the year from 08:00 until 17:30. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery provides meals and snacks for children including a cooked lunch. There are currently 60 children on roll and of these 48 children are in receipt of funding.

There are five staff who work with the children and all have appropriate child care qualifications.

The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in a healthy environment where they frequently access fresh air. Children regularly participate in a wide variety of daily physical activities both structured and free play to ensure plenty of exercise to contribute to their good health. Children learn about changes to their bodies through well planned activities and are aware of how exercise makes them feel tired and thirsty. Children are able to access water bottles indoors and outdoors throughout the day which enables children to meet their own individual needs. Children are extremely well protected against the harmful rays of the sun as they play outdoors. Sunscreen is applied to children and they are constantly reminded to keep on their sun hats. There are patio awnings attached to the premises and a wooden gazebo to enable children to access plenty shade to protect themselves from the sun.

Children benefit greatly from very high standards of hygiene. Premises and equipment are cleaned regularly through the day with rigorous procedures and notices displayed to inform and remind staff of these procedures. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before handling food, after visits to the toilet and messy play. Children are able to access antibacterial liquid soap and use warm air dryers to prevent cross contamination. Children's dental hygiene is very well promoted as they are able to brush and clean their teeth following their lunch.

Children are very well nourished as they are provided with an excellent well balanced cooked lunch which contains wholesome food including a variety of fruit and vegetables. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks where they choose from a selection of fresh fruit and milk or water to drink. Children learn about healthy foods through discussion and planned activities. Older children are understanding about healthy foods for lunch boxes as they are preparing for starting school. They are able to draw and describe a selection of healthy foods and are aware that they are good for their growing bodies. Children experience activities of growing vegetables and caring for them as they share the school allotments.

Children are very well protected from illness and infection through excellent policies and procedures. Staff ensure the parents understand the procedures for children not attending so they not only protect their children but others as well. Accurate accident and medication records ensure children are well cared for. Written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is obtained so staff can act in the best interest of the child. Children's health is enhanced by staff's up to date first aid skills and procedures to check first aid resources which ensures minor accidents can be dealt with effectively.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very safe and secure environment. Extremely rigorous and comprehensive risk assessments ensure risks are identified and effectively minimised, such as daily checks on premises are displayed and completed before children arrive and during their visit. Excellent door security, such as a 'fitted intercom and CCTV' system ensures children are safe and prevents unsuitable persons from gaining access to the children.

Children benefit from spacious premises offering a warm, friendly and welcoming environment. Premises, furniture and equipment are exceptional and extremely well maintained. Space and

rooms are used very well, they are organised to effectively cater for children's needs. Children use different rooms according to their age and ability to ensure they access safe and suitable furniture, equipment and resources and are able to make safe choices. Children have safe and easy access to an abundance of resources, equipment and toys that are stimulating, challenging, fun and interesting. Excellent storage and organisation of rooms allow children to have many choices. Children enjoy a wide range of interesting outdoor equipment which is located adjoining the premises and is fully enclosed to promote children's safety. The outdoor area is effectively divided to ensure children's safety as they separate active resources, such as wheeled toys from other resources. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they are aware of not running indoors so they don't hurt themselves or others. Children benefit from excellent child friendly premises where they can access the two main playrooms, quiet room and toilets safely. Rooms are connected by doors and walls with large circular windows inset which promotes children's safety through constant supervision by staff of the whole building. Children are very well protected against the risk of fire. Excellent procedures such as regular fire drills and maintaining log records together with well maintained fire appliances promote their safety.

Children are very well protected from harm through all staff's comprehensive knowledge and understanding of child protection. Staff access regular training and have good information for further guidance on child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and settled within the nursery. Highly effective organisation of children into ages and ability and well planned routines ensure all children are fully involved in all aspects of the nursery. Younger children benefit from staff's excellent planning and use of the Birth to three matters framework. All children are highly engrossed and motivated in the various activities provided. Children benefit greatly from staff's excellent interaction skills which supports and extends children's learning and they are achieving exceptionally well. Daily routines also allow younger and older children to play together and participate in activities to support their learning. For example, children enjoy playing and sharing the target game outdoors and become excited, enthusiastic and fully engaged in action rhymes and songs, such as 'old macdonald'. Plans are very effective to support all children's achievements. Planned activities planned and routines meet the needs well of all children. All Children show independence as they are able to choose from a wide selection of toys and equipment provided. At circle time younger as well as older children are growing in confidence as they are able to recognise their names and talk out in large groups. Children have many opportunities to develop their creative skills as there are numerous resources for art and craft available for free play. Children enjoy using their senses and imagination as they explore with 'gloop'.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning for funded children is outstanding. Children are making excellent progress across the six areas of learning. Plans identify aims and objectives and children's progress records are linked to the stepping stones. Children's learning is greatly enhanced by key worker groups and staff who know the children well. Staff are able to provide exciting and challenging activities and effectively interact as they play, talk and question children without stifling their own development. For example, children have a fun time playing the 'Mecki & Co' counting game they enjoy sharing with friends and being able to count, they are excited as they can count to number 19 and they are proud of their achievements. Children's mathematical learning is progressing rapidly as children are able to participate and understand

about number in daily routines and practical problems continually which is highly effective in reinforcing their learning.

Children are able to recognise and write their names and they are encouraged to recognise letters, know their name and sound through every day routines and planned activities. Children are fully engaged in a letter game where they are able to choose an item from a tray of objects beginning with certain letters, such as 't' and a child finds a tractor. Children have many opportunities to access mark making resources, they have a designated area where a wide selection of writing resources are available. Children also mark make in other activities, such as role play and outdoors. Outdoors children benefit from a large blackboard for chalking and painting on floors and large screens.

Children are very competent using Information Technology they are able to use tape and compact disc players with headphones for their sound lotto games. They are able to make pictures and participate in suitable games on the computer which effectively supports their development.

Staff are skilful in providing activities that are meaningful to children, such as 'preparing for school'. Children are very excited about starting school and are able to draw, colour and cut out shapes of their school uniform.

Children have many opportunities to explore, they have experience of digging and planting in the garden and children are proud to show the planters full of flowers that they have planted. Children have fun as they explore with shaving foam, they are able to describe texture and have fun inventing games between themselves using their own imagination. They handle tools, such as 'tons' to find small bricks of treasure they have hidden in the foam. Children use imagination well in water play as they use sea creatures, such as sharks, jelly fish, octopus and squid to play families on holiday. Children also explore through regular cooking activities and enjoy decorating biscuits. Children are encouraged to make their own design with icing on the biscuits and choose their own colours and decoration.

Overall children experience an extensive and well balanced curriculum through challenging, interesting and purposeful activities with ultimate choices to help them flourish.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are highly valued and respected as individuals. All children are welcome into the setting and receive excellent support and care from staff who work closely with one another and with the parents and carers to ensure children's development and progress is suitably enhanced. Children feel a sense of belonging as they are provided with a nursery backpack and a uniform is available. Children's self esteem is highly promoted as they prepare for their school days and look forward to their 'graduation' from nursery to school as they dress up in a 'cap and gown'.

Children are able to access a good range of resources and participate in planned activities to promote positive images of diversity. Planned activities include different countries, such as Australia and China which introduces children to the wider world.

Staff have good systems in place, such as individual learning plans and working with other professionals to support the welfare and development of children who have learning difficulties or disabilities. Staff are proactive in teaching all children sign language and in daily routines,

such as circle time children are able to sign and say good morning to one another. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Children behave exceptionally well. Children are learning to share and take turns as they use toys and play games. They are able to help one another at tidy up time and putting on sun hats. Children develop a positive attitude to expectations of their behaviour through staff's constant reminders of the rules, for example, no running indoors and to be caring and to share. Staff are excellent role models they are polite and calm when requesting children to complete tasks. Children's good behaviour is very well promoted through staffs praise and encourage and children enjoy their nursery clap and pebble system which effectively promotes their positive behaviour and self esteem.

Partnership with parents and carers is outstanding. Comprehensive written information is provided to keep parents well informed about the setting, this includes a welcome pack, policies and procedures and registration forms. Numerous wall displays in the entrance and nursery rooms keep parents informed about activities and events and of details of the Birth to three framework and the Foundation Stage. All parents are invited to share children's assessment records and folders through planned parent events and staff are available at any time for informal discussions. Parents are regularly requested to complete questionnaires so the staff are able to improve and meet the needs and wishes of children and parents.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The outstanding quality of care and nursery education ensures the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation. Children are very happy and settled within the extremely well organised setting. Children's work and posters are displayed to provide an attractive, friendly, warm and welcoming environment. An excellent range of furniture, toys and equipment are provided to cater for the needs of all children and offer easy accessibility and a wide choice of resources. Rooms and space are effectively organised and provide a spacious and exciting environment for children. Children benefit from staff who are well qualified, highly skilled and have a thorough understanding of how children develop. Staff are very well deployed and their organisation of grouping children is highly effective in enhancing children's learning and enabling them to reach their full potential.

Children's welfare, care and learning is extremely well supported through comprehensive policies and procedures, documentation and outstanding partnership with parents and carers. Excellent development and progress records are shared with parents.

The leadership and management of the setting is outstanding. They are professional, highly committed and very enthusiastic. There is very strong relationships between staff and management and they work very well together as a team. There are highly effective and regular systems in place to monitor the setting, such as completing documentation to evaluate the whole setting including the Foundation Stage, questionnaires from parents and regular staff meetings and appraisals. Any ideas identified for improvement are addressed to ensure they maintain their high standard and deliver a very effective curriculum. Management are very supportive of staffs' training needs and any updates are immediately shared to ensure they continually improve and further develop their knowledge to be able to meet the needs of all children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection a recommendation to develop fire safety was raised. The setting have now included fire logs in their fire drills and checking of smoke detectors is on the risk assessment to check on a daily basis to enhance the safety of children in the event of a fire.

At the last nursery education inspection the setting was recommended to continually review children's assessment systems to ensure children's needs are met. The setting has rigorous assessments and observations that are continually reviewed so they are effective in ensuring children are progressing. Good systems ensure all staff are aware of all children's next steps so they are linked into daily activities and future plans, to enable children to reach their full potential.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk