



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 508025

DfES Number: 510124

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/09/2003
Inspector Name Lindsey Pollock

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Ferndene Lodge Nursery
Setting Address 64 Elton Parade
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 8PQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Margaret Walden

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

Ferndene Nursery opened in 1987. It operates from seven rooms within a large house, purpose built baby unit, and a converted coaching house in the west end area of Darlington. It serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 142 children attending the nursery from three months to eight years on roll. This includes 36 funded three year olds and seven funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and procedures are in place if children who speak English as an additional language were to attend.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 until 17:30.

Four part time and seventeen full time staff work with the children. Seventeen staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

Ferndene Nursery provides satisfactory quality care for children. Management and staff work well together as a team to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for children, their parents and carers. Clear policies and procedures which are understood and followed by all staff ensure that children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment. The organisation of the nursery is mostly satisfactory, however the restricted numbers for children under two years of age are not adhered to.

Staff have an awareness of safety issues, with only two issues requiring attention. Risk assessments are undertaken to ensure children's safety both indoors and

outdoors at all times. Staff promote the good health of children by taking positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. They raise children's awareness of good hygiene practices. Appropriate measures are taken if a child becomes ill. Children's individual routines for hygiene, sleeping and feeding are respected, particularly in the baby unit. All staff have a good understanding of child protection procedures.

A wide range of stimulating activities and play opportunities are provided which develop children's emotional, physical social and intellectual capabilities. Children are involved, interested, and enjoy their play. Effective monitoring of children's progress ensures that staff are able to challenge children appropriately. Very good relationships have been established between staff and children and between the children themselves. Children are confident, happy and very well behaved.

Managers and staff recognise that children benefit most where there is a trusting and mutually supportive partnership between themselves and parents and carers, and work hard to achieve this. Parents are encouraged to share information, knowledge and expertise. They are kept fully informed of their child's care and progress and of the nurseries policies and procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure that rooms are maintained at adequate temperature and that electrical sockets be made inaccessible to children. Both issues have been satisfactorily addressed.

What is being done well?

- The wide range of interesting, well planned activities and play opportunities provided. They meet the needs of all children and helps them make progress in all areas of development.
- The strong emphasis on consideration and caring for others. Children are encouraged to behave well and have developed a good sense of right and wrong. Behaviour throughout the nursery is good due to the consistent and sensitive handling by staff.
- The good relationships between parents and carers. Parents are kept fully informed and involved in their child's care, progress and development. Effective procedures are in place for the exchange of information.
- Clear policies are in place, these are updated regularly, are understood and followed by staff, and are available for parents.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures for completing room registers and for ensuring registration numbers are adhered to
- the arrangements for ensuring children are aware of low level glass, and to prevent them accessing open windows

- children's access to toys and play materials

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	provide an action plan showing how correct figures for children under two years of age will be maintained.	26/09/2003

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	ensure room registration system shows when staff are present
5	ensure all children can access toys and materials easily
6	ensure children are aware of low level glass and that they are unable to access open windows.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Fernedene Lodge Nursery provides a stimulating learning environment for children enabling them to make very good progress towards the early learning goals. They make very good progress in their personal social and emotional, creative, mathematical and physical development and in communication, language and literacy and knowledge and understanding of the world.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff work as a team and plan a varied range of interesting activities for children. They have a sound understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and early learning goals. Staff support children in a way that positively affects the children's attitudes to learning. The nursery rooms are well organised and activities are set out to promote learning. Staff manage behaviour very well and act as good role models. Assessment books and achievement records are in place and are used to plan for individual children's development.

Leadership and management is very good. Staff are encouraged to attend training to further their development and knowledge. Regular staff meetings promote positive monitoring and evaluation of the nursery education. Management is committed to improving the care and education of funded children and the ongoing development of the provision.

Partnerships with parents is very good. Parents are fully informed of the foundation stage and the early learning goals. Parents are encouraged to be involved with their child's learning and they are made to feel welcome and valued. Parents receive regular written information about their child's progress. Information is shared on a daily basis and parents find staff caring, approachable and friendly.

What is being done well?

- Partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive clear information about their child's progress in all areas of learning.
- Staff manage children's behaviour very well and have established good relationships with them.
- Children's progress in personal, social and emotional development is very good. They are interested and confident and able to work on their own and in small groups.
- Children use and develop their imagination in role play very well and listen and respond with attention and enjoyment to stories and rhymes.
- Children describe significant personal events very well.

What needs to be improved?

- Opportunities for children to solve simple mathematical problems.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made good improvement since their last inspection. Assessments are now linked to planning and staff have attended training on Planning and Early Learning Goals.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are interested, confident and are able to work on their own and as part of a group. Children are forming very good relationships with staff and they relate well to each other. They approach adults confidently and have a good understanding of the nursery routine. Children behave very well, they recognise and understand the boundaries and respond well to guidance from staff. Children have good opportunities to develop independence.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children communicate confidently and through planned everyday activities effectively link sounds to letters. They handle books correctly and respond well and listen with enjoyment to stories, songs and rhymes. Children have regular opportunities to practice their writing skills and use these opportunities well. They use a pencil effectively to form recognisable letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are developing counting skills and show an interest in numbers. They understand shape and size through spontaneous and well planned activities. Children are beginning to use and understand language such as more, less through practical everyday activities. There are however some missed opportunities for children to solve simple mathematical problems.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children describe significant personal events very well and are beginning to show an interest in their own culture and belief and that of others. They use simple tools competently and appropriately and can build and construct with a range of materials. Children are beginning to ask questions about why things happen and how things work.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move with confidence, imagination and safety and use a range of equipment with confidence. They access a range of activities to ensure good progress is made in physical development. Children can negotiate space well. They are beginning to recognise changes that happen to their bodies when they are active.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore a range of creative materials and experiment with colours and textures. They use imagination and role play with confidence based on first hand experiences. Children sing simple songs from memory and are beginning to move rhythmically. They recognise colours well and use drawing for a purpose.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- Provide children with opportunities to solve simple mathematical problems.

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.