



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 229057

DfES Number: 519678

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/10/2004
Inspector Name Samantha Jayne Taylor

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Seesaws Day Nursery
Setting Address 635 Chester Road
Wylde Green
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B73 5HY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Lady Jayne Ackers

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

See Saws Day Nursery, Chester Road opened in 1994. The nursery is one of several See Saws Day Nurseries sited in the West Midlands region. See Saws also has an out of school service and holiday play scheme which operate from a local site. The nursery is organised on two floors of a detached house which is situated in a residential area of Sutton Coldfield and serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 60 children from 0-8 years on roll. This includes funded 3 and 4-year-olds.

The group opens five days a week all year round except for bank holidays. Sessions are between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30. Children can attend for a variety of sessions.

There are 16 full time members of staff who work with the children; over three quarters of the staff hold a childcare qualification to NVQ level 2, level 3 or above and others are on training programmes. A teacher is also employed. The setting receives support from a link worker from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

See Saws Day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. The nursery has good leadership and management and there is a planned restructure for the setting including a manager transferring from another See Saws Day Nursery to this setting. The nursery is organised on two floors. There are different areas available for play, but space and group size are not always utilised effectively. Equipment and resources are in good condition and are freely accessible to children. Staff development is encouraged through induction and appraisal. The majority of documentation is accurate and maintained but the procedure for recording visitors and staff is incomplete.

Children are familiar with routines. Attention is paid to health and hygiene, but the

area and procedure for changing children in the first floor bathroom requires attention. Fire safety is very good and the drill works well in practice. Staff consult with parents to meet children's individual dietary requirements, with nutritious home cooked meals prepared on site. The nursery is rich in culture, including resources which reflect positive imagery. Children with special needs are welcomed. Information is available to, and shared with, parents regarding child protection procedures.

Staff plan a range of fun activities which aim to meet children's interests both indoors and outdoors, including a weekly visiting music teacher. There is also an option to access the visiting dance teacher. Staff lead activities such as an introduction to French, enjoyed by both children and staff. Staff extend children's learning through discussion and praise. Children behave well throughout the nursery but sometimes group size in the pre-school department impacts on children's potential for learning.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents express confidence in the provision and the care offered. Parents views are sought and any comments are reviewed and where appropriate addressed.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the manager agreed to forward a plan detailing the areas used by children, maximum numbers in each play area throughout the week, together with child/space ratios. A plan was forwarded to Ofsted including space available and numbers of children in each area. The registered person advised myself prior to the Combined Inspection that a very recent restructure within the nursery had taken place. This was partly to accommodate the changing age bands of children within the nursery. An additional room on the first floor had been made available for pre-school children. However at inspection the recent re-organised operational plan did not always work in practice. Although ratios of staff/children were met, some staff did not always utilise the space available and group size was not always appropriate.

The manager also agreed to ensure that there are appropriate sleeping facilities for children being cared for. The setting has identified a designated sleep room on the first floor and children have appropriate sleep mattresses and linen. An action was also set in response to developing staff's knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities. Staff have accessed training courses.

What is being done well?

- Fire procedures, staff children and visitors are clear on procedures and children are evacuated safely.
- Partnership with parents/carers.
- There is positive interaction between staff and children; staff know children well.

- A range of activities and resources are accessed both from within the nursery and the community which aim to promote children's development and widen their experiences.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation by maintaining an accurate record of staff and visitors on the premises
- the organisation of group size and utilise space available so that the operational plan is consistent with practice
- the changing area in the first floor bathroom to meet health and safety regulations.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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	Ensure that registration arrangements show when staff or visitors are on the premises and maintain an accurate record.	19/10/2004
6	Ensure that staff comply with health and safety regulations at all times when changing infants in the first floor bathroom.	19/10/2004

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

How effective is the nursery education?

See Saws Day Nursery provides generally good quality nursery education for children. Staff have knowledge in the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Children are making generally good progress in personal, social and emotional development, physical development and very good progress towards all other areas of the Early Learning Goals. Children are actively involved in their learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. The nursery is well resourced and staff provide an inviting, stimulating environment. There are three rooms designated for the use of funded children, however space that has recently been made available is not always utilised and sometimes group size is not always appropriate. Staff encourage children to be self-sufficient and children are challenged to try out new experiences, to question and to explain. Good behaviour is encouraged by staff who employ positive strategies and who act as good role models.

The leadership and management of the setting is generally good. The registered person has a clear vision of the aims of the nursery and the standards required. The setting has recently identified strengths and areas to develop, and as a result there is a planned re-structure. Immediate changes have already been implemented including re-organisation of rooms, although time and some staff's understanding has not allowed the full benefits to impact on children's learning. Regular staff meetings and appraisals are held, staff are encouraged to attend courses relating to the Foundation Stage. Staff are qualified in Early Years, are consistent and experienced in working with pre-school children. Planning is detailed with regular assessments of children's learning.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff have good relationships with parents and show knowledge of children's home and family circumstances. Parents are well informed about the nursery's activities. Parents' views are sought and their comments are addressed.

What is being done well?

- Children show care and concern and are able to clearly express their ideas and needs.
- Children are exuberant in speech which is clear and fluent, encouraged by staff's consistent interest and engagement in their play and conversation.
- Staff provide a wide range of resources in creative play. Children choose freely from art and craft materials. This assists children in developing their finer manipulative and gross motor skills.
- Planning is detailed, includes learning intentions and is adapted to meet the developmental stages of children.

- Staff know children well, are enthusiastic in their work and are good role models.
- Partnership with parents is actively encouraged and parents views are sought and acted upon.

What needs to be improved?

- organisation of space and group size so that it is consistent with the operational plan.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery has made very good progress since the last inspection. There is now a special needs policy in place and staff liase with the area Special Needs Coordinator. Children with special needs are welcomed.

Technology to support learning has been introduced; children have access to a computer and printer, audio equipment and the setting has recently purchased a digital camera for use.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children show good social skills by having regard for other children as they play. Children are confident and work well independently showing that they are keen to learn. Quieter children are given time to express their ideas and needs. Children's behaviour is good but sometimes they are distracted when in a large group. Children readily make connections between activities in nursery and home, with a genuine interest in their different home experiences.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are exuberant speakers encouraged by staff's consistent engagement in their play and conversations. Children enjoy the quiet area, basic French lessons and are able to retell stories. Children listen well. Some children write their own names and practise emergent writing. They are able to communicate and draw their ideas including changes and patterns in their drawings. Some children are able to predict and delegate.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident in counting and recognising numerals. Children enjoy and join in number rhymes and songs. They are using and developing mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems. Children learn about size, shape and capacity through a range of activities both planned and spontaneous. Some children recognise numerals and are able to add and subtract simple sums, using their fingers to count.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are given time and encouragement to use all their senses to investigate a range of materials including exploring twigs and leaves from the natural world. Children are familiar with technological equipment including the use of computers which they freely access. They discuss their families past, present and future events and relate information to their own experiences. Children have opportunities to look at different festivals.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children move confidently indoors and outdoors but sometimes opportunities to explore space during action rhymes indoors is restricted. They are developing a good awareness of a healthy lifestyle. The children have access to a range of small and large equipment including tricycles, balls and resources which develop finer-manipulative skills and gross motor skills. Children have the opportunity to participate and explore dance through a visiting teacher.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children paint, draw and make constructions that reflect their own ideas. They play co-operatively and express their ideas through a range of mediums. Children learn about feelings through stories and discussions relating and recalling past events. Children talk about real and imagined experiences. When playing spontaneously children choose freely from arts and crafts available. In a small groups, they create and change chalk pictures including where the moon becomes the sun.

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

- ensure that all staff are familiar with and implement the re-organisation of the operational plan including group size and effective use of space available.

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.