



**Office for Standards
in Education**

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113496

DfES Number: 549028

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/12/2004
Inspector Name	Teresa Elkington

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Garden Cottage Nursery
Setting Address	The Square Highden, London Road Washington West Sussex RH20 4BA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Lesley Jane Denman
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ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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

Garden Cottage Nursery is situated in a converted flint barn with two conservatory extensions. It is located in a rural hamlet, adjacent to Windlesham House School and serves a number of surrounding villages. It has fully enclosed outdoor play areas.

The nursery is registered to provide full day care for forty children under five years and over two years. It is open each week day during term time. There are sixty six children on roll, which includes funded three and four year olds.

The nursery is privately owned and run by the proprietor, who has an appropriate level three qualification. She employs a nursery manager who is supported by seven staff members, six of whom hold relevant qualifications. All members of staff have certificates in first aid.

The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and are working towards obtaining a West Sussex Quality Kitemark.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Garden Cottage Nursery offers high quality nursery education, where children make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff show a good knowledge of the early learning goals and have a clear understanding of how children learn. They plan a wide variety of practical activities, both in and outside across all areas of learning. Evaluation against the stepping stones and early learning goals takes place and planning and assessment takes into account differentiation in all areas. Staff use excellent questioning techniques and encourage children to think and express their own ideas. The staff work extremely well together to create a calm, welcoming child-centred environment. Staff independently support all children and help them progress. Children are encouraged to be helpful and supportive to each other and behave very well.

Leadership and management is very good. The Nursery benefits from a strong, and well-established staff team, who are all committed to the continual improvement of the setting. Effective systems are in place for the continual assessment and development of the staff. All staff work together as a team and have shared responsibility for planning, observing and assessment. The clear objectives, defined roles and responsibilities of the whole staff team, ensure that children learn within a secure and stimulating environment.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are kept well informed about the provision, forthcoming events through the use of newsletters and a well presented foyer area. There are systems in place to share information, including open evenings, newsletters, notice board and welcome packs. Parents are made welcome in the nursery and have opportunities to become involved in topics and activities, however parents do not have formal opportunities for contributing to the children's ongoing assessment records.

What is being done well?

- Staff create a well planned and stimulating environment where children learn through a wide range of practical activities. Good use is made of all resources and many opportunities are provided throughout the daily routine for children to self-select and make decisions for themselves.
- Staff question children effectively, encouraging them to think and contribute their own ideas. They take a genuine interest in what children have to say and provide many opportunities to allow children to do this.
- Children's communication, language and literacy skills is a particular strength. Many opportunities are provided for children to handle books and nurture their interest them. Children are confident speakers and show a good

understanding that writing can be used for different purposes.

- Parents are provided with many opportunities to learn about the foundation stage, for example presentations delivered by the Early Years Development partnership, notice boards and displays of children's work.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for parents to discuss their children's progress formally.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made to the area highlighted at the previous inspection; develop documents for the recording of children's progress through the foundation stage.

The nursery have adopted the Local Authority Developmental profiles to enable them to record how children are progressing through the early learning goals. These records are shared informally with parents to show how their children are progressing.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are fully involved in their play and are excited about new experiences. They concentrate well, listen to instructions and confidently suggest ideas in discussions. Children enjoy engaging in self-chosen activities and learn to share and take turns co-operating with their peers, for example child holding paper whilst tape is put into place. They develop very good independence as they take part in routine tasks, such as pouring their own drinks and washing and drying their cups.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are confident speakers and readily discuss their real and imagined experiences. Children show an appreciation of books, which they enjoy and handle appropriately. They practise emergent writing in many different situations, for example using writing area, role-play and outside using chalks. Children explore a range of different vocabulary as they use English and Spanish language.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have a good understanding of number and some are able to count to ten reliably and a few beyond. Many opportunities are provided for children to sort by function and compare shape. Children are developing skills in simple number operations such as adding and subtracting. They are beginning to use mathematical language correctly and developing an awareness of weight and capacity through the use of good resources and activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have opportunities to learn about a range of cultures and customs and confidently recall past and present events. They are interested in why things happen and how they work, for example exploring what is needed to make the torch work. They enjoy building and constructing models using a range of materials and have access to a range of resources to support them in their designing and joining skills. Children have regular access to the computer and to a good range of everyday technology.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children demonstrate a good sense of space and are able to move confidently during physical activities. They are confident when using outdoor play equipment and show good co-ordination and control. Children are confident in their use of scissors, pens, cutlery and small construction equipment. Children are encouraged to dress themselves in order to develop their skill in fastening zips and buttons. They learn good hygiene procedures and are able to recognise changes in their bodies.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children's creative development is very well supported by the stimulating range of resources and activities provided. They explore texture, shape and colour using a wide variety of materials, for example, as they model with play dough to create characters for the Nativity scene and as they play with sand and water. They learn about rhythm as they play with the musical instruments. The good use of the imaginative play areas allows children to express themselves in their role-play .	

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:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report but consideration should be given to the following area;
- continue to develop the partnership with parents, to provide them with opportunities to discuss formally the progress that is being made by their child.

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.