



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 503789

DfES Number: 534102

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/01/2004
Inspector Name Frank William Kelly

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name The Big Picture Children's Nursery
Setting Address 63a Scarisbrick New Road
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 6PA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Rebecca Jane Hesford

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Mrs Rebecca Jane Hesford
Address Stable End, Scarisbrick Park
Scarisbrick
Ormskirk
Lancashire
L40 9RZ

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

The Big Picture Children's Nursery opened in May 2001.

It operates from 5 playrooms based within a detached property. All the children's play rooms have adjoining toilets or nappy change facilities. There is two small fully enclosed outdoor play areas and the children are taken out on a regular basis to the local parks. The nursery is situated within walking distance of the town centre, local schools, parks and public transport links.

There are currently 143 children from 4 months to 4 years on roll. This includes 29 funded 3 year olds and 7 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of full and part time sessions. There are 3 children who speak English as an additional language. None have special needs.

The nursery opens 6 days a week, all year round. Sessions are from 07:30 to 18:00.

There are 19 staff who work with the children on a full and part time basis. There are 16 staff who have early years qualifications and 2 who are currently on training programmes. The setting has completed a Sheffield Kite Mark Early Years Quality Assurance Scheme. The nursery receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The Big Picture Children's Nursery provides good care for the children.

The nursery has an effective operational plan which enables the staff to work well as a team, and implement policies consistently. The nursery is very welcoming, clean and well maintained. The children have good adult attention, settle confidently and are happy and relaxed throughout their day. There are a good range of equipment and furniture that enable children to play, rest and socialise together. Many of the resources present positive images of the diversity of today's society. However, there is a need to make these resources more accessible, so that children can explore

different experiences during their independent play. This would help them to make sense of their wider world.

There is an equal opportunities policy that staff understand and implement well throughout the nursery. In all aspects of provision children for whom English is an additional language are well supported and fully included in activities. Staff follow the safety procedures well and make security a priority, supervising the children vigilantly. However they need to revise the daily risk assessments to ensure that identified risks do not present a hazard to the children. Systems for food storage and preparation are excellent, and children enjoy a range of eating experiences through new and familiar foods.

Staff have established good relationships with the children. The children benefit from the consistent routines for sleeping, playing and eating. Staff plan a range of stimulating activities which encourage children to make choices and learn. They manage the children's behaviour very well and the children are well occupied, learning to share and respect each other.

There are formal and informal systems in place for the sharing of information between staff and parents which supports good partnership and appropriate care for the individual child.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting agreed to ensure that all adults caring for children submit to the required vetting procedure, contingency plans put in place to meet the required adult to child ratios and details of staff and children's times of attendance were recorded.

Since then all adults have completed relevant vetting procedures, the contingency procedure's have been revised and the registration system clearly identifies the children's times of arrival and departure and all adults responsible for caring for the children.

What is being done well?

- The organisation of the setting is good. It has effective induction and appraisal systems to ensure staff implement the policies and procedures consistently. The commitment to staff development and training enhances the safe and stimulating care provided for the children.
- Provision for babies is good. Staff give good attention to meeting their individual needs for sleeping and weaning. They plan activities well to give babies interesting sensory experiences.
- Children have secure and confident relationships with their carer's. Staff plan a wide range of activities which build on their curiosity and promote their learning.
- The staff manage the children's behaviour well. The children are occupied and interested. They are learning to share and be considerate of each other.

- Information about the setting is very detailed. It has fostered good parent-setting partnership. The sharing of information forms the basis for care which in turn meets the individual child's needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the children's access to resources that promote equality during their independent play
- the implementation of the daily risk assessments.

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
5	Provide further opportunities to children with access to more resources during independent play
6	Revise implementation of daily risk assessments.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Big Picture Children's Nursery is a high quality provision. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas. They learn through a wide range of stimulating, well planned activities.

Teaching is very good. Useful systems are used effectively to assess and record the children's progress and inform the planning. Staff work well as a team and are good role models. They have realistic expectations of children's behaviour and manage it well but do not always hold the full attention of younger children in large group discussions. Staff provide a broad range of activities and encourage the children to select their own resources and work independently. Staff have due regard to the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs and there is an effective system in place to provide support. Staff offer good support to children whose first language is not English.

Leadership and management is very good. Much of the success of the nursery is due to strong leadership and the well structured management systems. The management and staff are committed to improving the quality of the provision. Systems to monitor the effectiveness of the staff and the provision are well developed. Staff training records are clear and are linked to the organisational plan.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents and staff informally share information about the children on a daily basis. All parents, including those who work, receive regular information about their child's progress. Informative newsletters and planning sheets have been developed to inform parents about what their child is learning. Partnership with parents is valued and positively encouraged.

What is being done well?

- The management are committed to the continuous improvement of the nursery and actively encourage staff and parents to be involved in the development of the high quality provision.
- Staff have a very good understanding of the Foundation Stage and how children learn. They plan and provide a wide range of stimulating activities which help children make links in their learning.
- Parents and staff have an excellent relationship which positively contributes to the children's learning.
- Children have very good opportunities to make sense of the world. They learn about their own cultures and beliefs and that of others in the wider world through well planned activities and good links with other countries.
- Children have good opportunities to develop their independence. They are confident, interested and able to work well on their own and in groups.

What needs to be improved?

- the organisation of large group activities to enable younger children to be fully engaged.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This is the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are interested, motivated and confident to try new activities. They show good personal independence by selecting their own equipment, serving their own dinner, helping themselves to water and cutting fruit at snack time. Children are developing an awareness of good personal hygiene and safety. Children talk freely about their home and are developing respect for their own culture and beliefs and that of others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's spoken language is developing well. They speak clearly, show awareness of the listener and use language to explore ideas during activities. Children confidently talk about their families and shared nursery experiences. Older children listen attentively at story time and predict what will happen next. Children's early writing skills are developing well and some children write recognisable letters. Most children label their own work and caption displays.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing good counting skills. They show a good interest in exploring shapes and fitting shapes together. Children use mathematical language well to compare size, shape and quantity through practical activities and everyday routines. Children confidently sing number rhymes and songs.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are learning about their local community and the wider world through well planned activities and links with other countries. Children enjoy talking about past and present events in their own lives and have a good sense of time and place. They show curiosity, observe, manipulate and investigate objects well using all their senses. They independently use computer programmes to support their learning.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and safely with control, inside and outside, and are developing a good awareness of space. They stretch and move their bodies well to music. Children handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control. Children are beginning to show an awareness of good personal hygiene.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy well planned activities which allow them to develop creative skills and communicate their ideas. They enthusiastically participate in group music sessions with the visiting teacher. Children imaginatively use role play and small world equipment to express their thoughts and feelings. They respond well in pictures, paintings, spoken words and emergent writing to what they see, hear, touch and feel.

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:

- Point for Consideration
- the organisation of large group activities.

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.