



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 120263

DfES Number: 511017

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/02/2004
Inspector Name	Anne Jacqueline Nicholson

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Crescent Nursery School
Setting Address	Merrow Cricket Club Epsom Road Merrow, Guildford Surrey GU1 2RE

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Lynn Flaherty
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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

The Crescent Nursery School is a privately owned nursery that opened in 1988. The provision is set in a single storey building belonging to Merrow Cricket Club. The nursery operates out of one room, with a toilet block, kitchen and fully enclosed outdoor area to the rear. It serves families from the local community and surrounding villages.

There are currently 32 children, aged from 2 years to 5 years, on roll. This includes 19 funded three year olds and 5 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting makes provision for and supports children with special needs and / or who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 12:15 during term time.

Five members of staff work with the children. Three members of staff have a recognised early years qualification. One member of staff is on an early years training programme. Four members of staff hold current first aid certificate. The setting receives support from the Early Years Childcare Services.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at the Crescent Nursery School is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress in all areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good and staff are confident in their knowledge of the early learning goals. Children's learning is enhanced through the staffs individual teaching styles and team work. Children regularly enjoy a wide variety of activities using natural materials. Broad ranges of activities are planned, using both inside and outside, to provide stimulating learning opportunities. Children's behaviour is exemplary and managed consistently by staff. Children are confident and play independently taking turns and sharing, they are developing good self-care skills. The current system of assessment and record keeping has been refined over the last year and allows for children's individual progress towards the early learning goals to be recorded however the reference links to evidence sources are not always clear. Plans and strategies are in place to ensure that all children are included and their needs are met. Support is received from the early years and special needs advisors.

Leadership and management of the setting is very good. Management and staff are all fully committed to maintaining and improving the quality of care and education for all children and regularly complete a self-assessment evaluation. Monitoring of assessment and recording systems ensure children's individual achievements are recognised.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Useful information about the setting is provided for parents and displayed on notice boards. Parents provide information about the needs of their children and are warmly welcomed into the nursery to liaise with staff. They receive information about their children's progress through written reports and they are invited to add comments to these.

### What is being done well?

- Children are positively encouraged to take turns and share. They display good behaviour and caring relationships for those around them.
- Children are provided with a variety of materials and activities to develop their pre-writing skills are encouraged to explore and investigate a variety of natural materials and objects.
- Children are provided with a wide variety of opportunities and materials to develop mathematical language and counting skills, they are encouraged to problem solve during everyday activities.
- Partnership with parents is promoted. Parents are made aware of what the setting provides through newsletters and notice boards. They see how their

children are progressing through written termly reports and attending a parent's session.

- Careful planning and strategies are in place to ensure that all children are included and their needs are met. Staff are enthusiastic in their approach to developing children's learning and in their participation of the activities with them.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- The referencing system that links evidence to planning, assessments and child profile is not always clearly identified and consistently recorded.
- Develop resources for promoting positive images of other cultures around the setting.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the previous inspection it was recommended that the group streamlined and unified their existing record system and this has been addressed. The current system is working effectively and provides a continuous process for staff to follow from planning to profile.

Staff were also asked to explore ways for all staff to identify and teach children with special needs - now the SENCO passes information from courses and about children to all staff and all staff are involved in promoting children learning programmes with the SENCO's support.

They were asked to ensure that apparatus was available for large movement and opportunities were provided to challenge the children's physical development. The group has addressed this area by purchasing a large climbing frame and making more use of the field to do sports & obstacle races.

Finally the group were asked to allow parents to contribute to assessments by including observations and comments on children's termly reports. The staff now hold a parent's coffee session where the written reports are discussed and parents write their comments on the reverse of these. This is working well and parents find it positive.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident, interested, motivated to learn and are developing concentration skills. Turn taking and sharing is encouraged. Child behaviour is very good and caring attitudes and good relationships are encouraged. Children's personal independence is developed through accessible resources and supporting independence in self-care skills. Children have opportunities to develop an understanding of the local community and other cultures through visits, visitors and careful planning.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children develop their language for communication and thinking through a variety of activities. They participate in a variety of songs and rhymes during the session and have daily opportunities to experience letter names and sounding letter skills. The book corner encourages children to sit and 'explore reading'. Children have a variety of activities and different materials available to develop their pre-writing skills. Children communicate confidently with their peers and adults.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children develop mathematical language and counting skills throughout the session using a wide variety of daily activities and also using natural materials as a tool. Counting and calculating are encouraged in a number of ways and during everyday situations. A wide variety of natural resources and objects are used to develop children's thinking and they are encouraged to problem solve. Children count confidently up to 10 and recognise the numerals 1 - 10.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are given opportunities and encouraged to use a variety of materials and natural resources to explore their senses and to construct with. Children use technology resources in context i.e. tape recorder, torches and computers. Opportunities for children to experience their local environment are regularly provided and they explore aspects of other cultures however visual resources of other cultures could be enhanced.

<b>PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children use a diverse range of tools and equipment with increasing skill and dexterity. They have daily opportunities to develop spatial awareness and increase confidence in moving through planned physical activity sessions. Children greatly enjoy and participate in the action songs as do the staff. Children have opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills through planned activities and the use of varied resources inside and outside.	

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have daily opportunities and a wide variety of resources available to develop imaginatively. There is a diverse range of activities provided, resources and natural materials available for children to use creatively. Children use all their senses to explore and investigate and go outside to increase the opportunities. Children explore music and rhythms through using instruments, clapping, songs and the use of music tapes.	

<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>
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## **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:*

- Points for consideration: Ensure that evidence and references that link planning, assessments and the child's profile are clearly identified and consistently recorded and dated.
- Points for consideration: Ensure that there sufficient visual references promoting positive images of other cultures around the setting.

*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.*