



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 133113

DfES Number: 522430

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/01/2005
Inspector Name	Gerry Simonds

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Zebedees Day Nursery
Setting Address	Avon Street Bath BA1 1UP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Lansdown Day Nurseries Ltd 03582657
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Lansdown Day Nurseries Ltd
Address	Avon Street Bath BA1 1UP

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

Zebedees Day Nursery is a purpose built nursery and is located in the centre of Bath. It is owned by Lansdown Day Nurseries Ltd. The premises include three playrooms for the children, kitchen, toilets and an enclosed outside play area, which can be used in all weathers. The nursery serves the local area.

The nursery is registered to provide care for up to 36 children between the age of 1 and 5 years. There are currently 54 children on roll. This includes 21 funded three-year-olds and 12 funded four-year-olds. The setting supports children with special needs and children with English as an additional language. The nursery opens from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday and is closed only during bank holidays.

There are 7 staff working directly with the children. Most staff members have childcare qualifications, one staff member is working towards a NVQ level 3 childcare qualification. There is also a qualified early years teacher. The setting is supported by the local Early Years Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Zebedees Day Nursery is of good quality. Children are making very good progress in personal social and emotional development, mathematical development and physical development. In communication language and literacy, knowledge and understanding of the world and creative development they are making generally good progress.

Teaching is generally good and although this is a new team of staff, they are working well together. They have generally good knowledge of the early learning goals and are working hard at planning and assessment. They plan a good range of activities which are clearly linked to the stepping stones of the foundation stage curriculum. It is not clear, however, how the plans link to assessment. Work is made different for older children and staff are working at giving these children more challenge. Children with special needs or English as an additional language are well supported with individual plans. Suitable resources support the curriculum inside and in the garden area outside.

Leadership and management is generally good. There is a new manager who is being trained by the area manager. Staff meet regularly to discuss their work and appraisals are held to set individual targets. Staff are willing to attend training and are looking at accreditation schemes.

Company policies and procedures are in place.

There is a very good partnership with parents. Parents are able to talk to staff and find them very approachable. Newsletters and reports are sent to parents and open evenings are held. Children's record files are kept in their individual trays and parents are able to look at these at any time. Parents feel well informed about the curriculum. However, they do not add to records in written form.

What is being done well?

- The good positive ethos within the nursery which helps children to be relaxed and happy in their surroundings.
- The staff team. They have not been working together for long but are working very well together.
- The good variety of activities which keep children interested all day at the nursery.
- The programme for mathematical development which uses everyday experiences and songs to develop understanding. For example, singing 'Five little firemen' and pointing out that they are taking away.
- The programme for personal, social and emotional development which

promotes good behaviour and the positive environment.

- The very good partnership with parents. Parents are happy to leave their children at the nursery and feel that they understand what the staff are trying to achieve with their children.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to write their names especially on their art work and to draw outlines for themselves
- opportunities for children to make mathematical patterns and to explore and investigate
- the linking of planning and assessment, and parental opportunities to add to their children's records.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress since the last inspection is very good.

At the last inspection staff were asked to provide more stimulation at outdoor play.

They have addressed this issue well. Outside equipment is good and children really enjoy their activities outside. They are able to climb, balance, use wheeled toys and play with a variety of small equipment.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy and settled. They show confidence and are developing good independence. They are able to concentrate for long periods on their chosen activities. Relationships within the group are good all round which makes for a relaxed happy atmosphere. Children are very well behaved and are encouraged to think of others and to share. They learn about their own culture and that of many others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have many good opportunities to express themselves verbally. They enjoy discussion and their language is well extended. They enjoy role play in their fairytale castle and use speech well in this area. They are learning letter sounds and reading simple words. They are able to write for a purpose as they write thank you letters to Santa. There is not, however, enough practise of name writing as staff tend to do this for them.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count regularly. They recognise numbers. They use mathematical language well as they talk of who is tallest or shortest. They are given good opportunity through songs and practical activities to understand the concepts of addition and subtraction and really enjoy singing songs such as 'Five little firemen'. They are able to solve simple problems but do not make mathematical repeating patterns regularly enough.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy many activities which involve designing and making. They are able to choose their own resources to do this. They use tools with increasing skill and confidence. The computer is regularly used by them to enhance other areas of the curriculum. They are able to learn about the wider world through a wealth of visitors to the group. There is at present no opportunity for investigation and nothing growing inside to observe.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to move as they visit their all weather garden several times in the day. They are able to climb and balance regularly. They show good awareness of space as they use wheeled toys without bumping into others. They handle tools with confidence and control and have conversations about staying healthy, for example, using tissues or washing their hands.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
These children have plenty of opportunity to explore colour as they go into their art area regularly to paint, print, make collages or three dimensional models. They are also able to explore sound with a collection of percussion instruments. They really enjoy singing and respond well to play in the role play area. Sometimes adults draw outlines for children to colour in and children show that they are capable of doing this for themselves.	
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 children are able to write their names regularly and draw outlines for themselves
- make opportunities for children to investigate, explore and make more regular mathematical pattern
- link assessment clearly to the planning, and explore ways for parents to add to records in written form.

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.