



**Office for Standards
in Education**

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 405004

DfES Number: 542281

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/09/2004
Inspector Name Janette Elaina Langford

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name Little Flyers
Setting Address 10 Woodside Camp
 Woodside Road
 Thornwood, Epping
 Essex
 CM16 6LJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Unavailable Unavailable

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

Little Fliers Day Nursery opened in June 2001. It operates from a building which has been redesigned to accommodate full day care. The nursery consists of a suite of five children's playrooms, a self contained kitchen, office, staff room and toilet facilities. The nursery also has a large outdoor play area and serves the local and surrounding areas. There is also a holiday and after school club operating from the premises.

There are currently 94 children from 0 to 5 years on roll. This includes 10 funded three year olds and 4 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are no children currently attending with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week, 51 weeks a year. Sessions are from 07:30 until 18:30. The holiday and after school club opens five days a week, all year round from 3.00 to 6.00 pm, and 8.30 am to 6.00 pm during the school holidays.

There are 9 part time staff and 15 full time staff working with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2, 3 or 4. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Little Flyers Nursery offers acceptable provision for the children but has significant areas for improvement. Children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by the quality of teaching.

Significant weaknesses in the teaching are mainly due to staff's limited knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage. They sometimes miss opportunities to develop children's learning through everyday routines and practical experiences. Staff rely on worksheets to teach letters and numbers with little differentiation in the activities. Written plans are not reflected in practice and time fillers such as colouring and looking at books are used without adequate staff interaction and support. Although there are written assessments, some comments are repetitive, not evaluative and do not assess a child's next steps.

The significant weaknesses in leadership and management are mostly due to little monitoring of the delivery of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Appraisals are undertaken with staff and some training is identified. However, staff working with the funded children have not had sufficient opportunities and support to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage. There is a designated SENCO within the nursery but she is not used to her full potential with the funded children. The setting has shown some commitment to improving the care and education for children by the recent employment of a qualified teacher.

Partnership with parents is generally good. Plans are displayed with a brief introduction to the six areas of learning in the prospectus. There are formal open days where the progress of individual children is discussed with the parent. Parents can see developmental records but there are no written reports. Newsletters are sent out specifically about the funded children and parents are encouraged to be involved with their child's learning and support some topic work.

What is being done well?

- Children are becoming confident and welcome new people and new experiences into their group. They initiate conversations and negotiate with each other, share and can take turns.
- The nursery is well equipped with resources for the children and toys and equipment are stored at child height. The garden area provides good opportunities for children to develop some of their larger physical skills.

What needs to be improved?

- staff knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage

- planning in all six areas of learning
- the use of observations.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/a

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children develop good relationships, are confident, know the routines and interested in new things, situations and people. They behave well and can take turns. Free play sessions are limited and although there is a wide range of accessible equipment, it is not used to its full potential and children do not have enough free choice. The children are capable of managing developmentally appropriate tasks but there are limited opportunities for them to use these skills.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

Children use language well. They are developing their speaking skills and can hold a conversation easily and know when it is their turn to listen. They are eager to hear stories and enjoy looking at books. Very few opportunities are used or created to encourage children to link sounds and letters or experiment with their emergent writing. Worksheets and books are developmentally inappropriate for them to grasp concepts without the prior practical experiences identified in the stepping stones.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

Children can count together. They occasionally use number language in their play but many opportunities are missed by staff to encourage children to look at numbers as labels. Few situations are initiated by staff to help children develop their understanding of simple calculation in a practical manner. Children enjoy making patterns and shapes with the equipment and sometimes staff pick up on their interest and will talk briefly about shapes and patterns.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

Children have a natural curiosity to ask questions and enjoy exploration and investigation when given the opportunities, such as using the outside area and looking at nature. There are some activities that aim to give children a basic understanding of differences in culture. Planned activities to develop designing and making skills are limited and there are few regular opportunities for children to develop an interest in ICT.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy the outside area which is well resourced and offers many physical play experiences. They use their bodies well and are developing skills such as hopping and jumping and can manage their bodies to create intended movements. Children recognise some of their own needs, such as wanting to drink after running around. There are some opportunities for handling tools but planning does not incorporate the stepping stones or include use of the indoor areas.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:

Significant Weaknesses

The nursery has a good range of materials and media for children to use in their artwork. However, there are few opportunities for children to explore and experiment with their own creative ideas to express themselves. Children enjoy singing and a dance teacher visits once a week, although not all children have the chance to take part if they do not attend everyday. Children use their imagination well when given the opportunity to do so.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses. The next inspection will take place in one to two years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- increase staff knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage
- ensure plans cover all six areas of learning, and include differentiation and evaluation and ensure the Foundation Stage is delivered effectively and monitored so that children are progressing towards the early learning goals
- make use of spontaneous observations to support the assessment of children and ensure that development is accurately recorded under the stepping stones to effectively plan for children's next steps in learning.

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.