



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 103731

DfES Number: 581605

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/02/2004
Inspector Name	Jacqueline Fryer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Strawberry Fields Day Nursery
Setting Address	37 Stuart Road Gillingham Kent ME7 4AD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Strawberry Fields
------	-------------------

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Strawberry Fields
Address	37 Stuart Road Gillingham Kent ME7 4AD

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

Strawberry Fields Day Nursery opened in 1990. It operates from three rooms in a house in Gillingham, Kent. The nursery serves the local area.

There are currently 93 children from 1 to 5 years on roll. This includes 28 funded 3-year-olds and 7 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs and some children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07.30 to 18.00.

There are 18 staff working with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. There are 2 staff currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). Some teaching is based on the Montessori system.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Strawberry Fields Day Nursery provision is acceptable and of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. The staff's knowledge of how children learn, allows them to plan interesting and exciting activities. Planning is generally good but lacks detail of what children are expected to learn and how the outcomes relate to the stepping stones. Children with special needs benefit from the high staff ratio. The staff's caring and committed attitude enhances the environment in which children play and progress. Children are confident in self selecting activities. They are well behaved and live up to the high expectations staff have of them. Praise and encouragement are given often. Staff are animated and clearly enjoy working with the children.

The group foster very good relationships with parents, who are welcomed into the setting to give and receive information about their child's progress. There is a parents' committee which works well along side the management and staff. A key worker system allows parents to speak to the member of staff who has the most contact with their child. All policies are written up and shared with parents. Parents also receive information about the group and the children via newsletters, the parents' notice board and open mornings.

Leadership and management is very good. The group benefit from having strong leadership and guidance. The staff team work hard at providing play and learning opportunities for the children. The rooms are attractively laid out and resources are changed regularly during the day. Staff show they are committed to the care and development of all children. Staff are given very good opportunities to attend training, that are willingly taken up. The provider is aware of her staff's strengths and weaknesses and uses this positively to the children's advantage. All staff are included in planning and their thoughts and ideas are valued.

What is being done well?

- Staff attitudes and interactions ensure that the children are confident learners, motivated to learn and explore new ideas. Staff are committed to children's care and learning.
- Children's behaviour is very good. They are confident, interested and able to self select and work on their own.
- Partnership with parents is positively encouraged. Parents are encouraged to join the parents' committee which works closely with the supervisor for the benefit of the children. Parents are welcomed into the setting to receive and share information.
- The outdoor area is planned for and used daily. Parents are encouraged to make sure that their children are suitably attired for the weather, as the

children play outside every day.

- Leadership and management is good. The staff feel they are well supported by their supervisor, who spends time talking and listening to them and who offers them regular training opportunities.

What needs to be improved?

- the dating of photographic evidence
- children's use of the book area for enjoyment (four-year-olds)
- how plans show the expected outcomes for the older, more able children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Children have excellent opportunities to select activities and toys for themselves. The resources are well labelled and storage trolleys are used to enable children to choose or change activities during the day.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

The children are confident learners, interested in their peers and other adults. They generally form good relationships with those around them. Children make choices about where they play and good labelling and storage allows them to select the resources they want. Children show they are familiar with the routines and have opportunities to play independently or along side their peers. The children's behaviour is generally good and they help to tidy up at the end of the sessions.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children are becoming confident communicators with each other and other adults. Younger children form good relationships and are beginning to express themselves. The children are becoming confident writers. They learn to recognise and use letters during informal and planned activities. They use the role-play well to make up and act out pretend and real life situations. The younger children use the book area well, with or without adult support.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

Children are becoming confident in their abilities to count up to ten and recognise numbers. Three and four-year-olds are given sufficient challenges through a range of practical activities. Staff use appropriate language to help children consolidate their learning for mathematical development. Small groups mean staff are able to support, discuss and encourage children to look at problems and think through the solutions.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

Through topics and themes the children begin to know about their own cultures and those of others. The group looks at festivals and events and include these in their planning. Children use basic technology to enhance and support their learning. They are able to use a range of materials to explore science and find out how and why things work. The children learn about their environment by taking trips to local facilities. The children are interested in new people and keen to try new activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

The children are given very good opportunities to develop their large and small motor skills. They are becoming confident users of a range of small tools and equipment. The children move confidently around the tables and show they are aware of space. The children have excellent opportunities to use the outside area, which is planned for daily, regardless of the weather. Activities, discussions and topics help children to learn about their bodies and keeping healthy.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
<p>The children are becoming confident in their creative development. Work displayed shows children are given opportunities to explore a range of materials, textures, colour and shape. Children are able to self select materials and use their imaginations well in pretend and real life situations. Children are encouraged to develop their own ideas with music and movement.</p>	
<p>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</p>	

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

- Develop planning to include details of what children are expected to learn and relate these clearly to the stepping stones.

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.