



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY152727

DfES Number: 534898

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	27/10/2004
Inspector Name	Susan, Helen Spencer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Oak Lea Private Day Nursery
Setting Address	68 Leigh Road Atherton Wigan M46 0PA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mr James Joseph Farrell
------	-------------------------

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 Oak Lea Private Day nursery is owned by Mr J. Farrell. It opened in 2002 and operates from a converted house. All children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. It is situated in Atherton, north west of Manchester. The setting opens from 07.30 to 18.00 Monday to Friday. It is open 51 weeks of the year, except for bank holidays.

It is registered to care for 50 children. There are currently 45 children aged between three months and four years on roll and they attend for a variety of sessions. 14 children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports no children identified as having special educational needs and also supports no children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 14 staff of whom 10 work with the children. They all have early years qualifications, except for one experienced part-time staff member. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare partnership.

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 Oak Lea Day Nursery is good. It enables children to make generally good progress in all the six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. A wide range of topics is well planned by staff. There are direct links to the 'Stepping Stones'. Staff prepare lots of activities for the children each day, which cover the six areas of learning, and allow children to choose what they want to do. Children are not always challenged because some staff do not have the experience to extend activities or children's language. Children's behaviour is managed consistently and praised well. Some tasks are too directed, e.g. writing worksheets and better use could be made of the multi-cultural resources.

Staff both observe children and use dedicated tasks to assess their progress. Detailed notes are made and these are transferred regularly to the child booklet. These booklets are freely available to parents and used as a basis for the twice yearly "parents' meetings".

The leadership and management of the day nursery are generally good. The room manager provides colleagues with a positive role model and is forming a good team. Staff self-appraisal is in place and is helping both staff and management review provision. Currently this process is not rigorous enough to enable management to have a clear view of the strengths and areas for development of the pre-school. Staff are encouraged to go on local courses and feedback to colleagues at staff meetings.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents feel strongly that the staff are very caring and know each of their children individually. They feel well informed about events and what their child will learn, which enables them to help at home. They greatly appreciate both the informal opportunities to chat about their child and the two "parents' evenings" each year.

What is being done well?

- Staff have developed trusting relationships with parents and children which help children feel comfortable in the nursery and aid their learning.
- Children's own mark making is valued by staff through praise and display and this encourages children to keep 'having a go'.
- Children listen attentively to stories and recall considerably detail from them.
- Children use numbers in a variety of activities.
- The provision of swimming lessons is a major bonus for the children.
- Children handle small implements with growing confidence because they have frequent chances to use them.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● the opportunities for children to compare amounts and learn the language of more and less than● management's understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the education provision● the over-use of inappropriate worksheets● the use of resources to promote children's understanding of Britain as a multi-cultural society.

What has improved since the last inspection?
not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Children feel safe and settle well into the pre-school because they have a very positive relationship with staff. They develop independence because they choose sensibly from the wide range of activities set out for them. Children learn about the right way to behave and are praised when they do so. Children's occasional poor behaviour is dealt with sensitively. Children's independence is sometimes limited e.g. serving at snack times.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

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

Children use words to communicate their needs to staff. A few do not speak clearly or accurately and staff do not correct this. They sit well and listen attentively to stories. They follow the story through the pictures and answer questions well. They handle books with great care and one child acted the 'storyteller' extremely well. Children enjoy mark making and their own work is valued and praised by staff. However, this is not extended.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Children recognise and name the main colours and sort objects according to colour accurately. They recite numbers, e.g. when talking about the date, to twenty and beyond. In a domino game, most children 'touch counted' securely to six. Children do not extend their understanding of equal groups or one more/less than. Children use mathematical language in their play quite well, like describing the 'crowns' as too big or too small.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

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

Children enjoy the trip to the swimming baths and recall lots of things they have seen using a wide vocabulary. Their curiosity is stimulated by topics and activities like baking and growing plants. Children know that they are 'bigger now' but not quite old enough to go to school. They know that they have changed from babies. Multi-cultural resources are stored away and thus not used well to promote diversity. Because the computer is broken children get too few chances to control machines.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Children use small tools with growing accuracy and confidence. They also handle pencils, pens and paintbrushes well, making bold strokes on a painting or neat colouring within the lines on a 'ghost' picture. Children enjoy their swimming session and are gaining confidence in the water. Children join in with action songs and move around the rooms safely. A few children find it difficult to roll a ball accurately during a skittles game. Children get frequent opportunities to use the outdoor area.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children enjoy singing and join in with action songs. They use paint and colouring pencils with growing accuracy and many children keep within the lines well. Most art activities are well chosen to stimulate children's interest and develop their skills. But some are too directed by the staff which limits their indeividual choice. Children play imaginatively in the doctor's surgery.	

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

- devise and implement a rigorous system of monitoring and evaluating teaching and learning
- give children more opportunities to make marks and draw for themselves
- prepare more activities in which children can compare amounts and learn the language of more and less than
- promote multi-cultural awareness by making greater use of the resources available

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.