



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 223656

DfES Number: 580450

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/04/2003
Inspector Name	Benita Catherine Hart

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Railway Children Day Nursery
Setting Address	Wakefield Crossing Cottage, Bradney Green, Cantey, Coventry CV4 8BN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Penelope June Corry
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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 Railway Children Nursery has been established since 1992 and is one of two privately owned facilities in the Coventry and Warwickshire areas. The owner lives on these premises. It operates from a converted house and all the nursery facilities are downstairs. Children attend the nursery from the wider areas of Coventry and surrounding districts.

There are currently 40 children on roll which includes 13 funded three and four year olds. The nursery caters mainly for working parents but children attend a variety of sessions. The group have strategies in place to support children with special needs and for children where English is an additional language.

The nursery opens 51 weeks of the year and offers full day care to 36 children which includes six babies under two years. Times of opening are from 7.00am to 6.00pm from Monday to Friday.

There are ten staff working with the children, eight have early years qualifications and there are two nursery assistants. The setting receives support from a teacher / mentor 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?

Overall children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals and very good progress in their physical development and knowledge and understanding of the world.

Teaching is generally good and staff have a good knowledge of the stepping stones and use of the curriculum. Staff also make good use of the natural environment around the nursery and children are learning about other cultures and beliefs. Staff have good relationships with the children and are enabling and approachable. They provide good practical support in their activities and all children have the same opportunities regardless of their attendance patterns.

The children's behaviour is generally good, however, when in large group situations, staff are not always effective in getting some of the children to concentrate and listen.

Partnership with parents is very good and a key worker system enhances continuity. Parents are encouraged to share in their children's learning and are kept well informed of their progress. Staff are effective in maintaining good relationships with parents.

Leadership and management within the setting are generally good. The manager and staff are well supported by the owner. Staff work well together as a team and good leadership within the nursery promotes strong moral within the staff group.

What is being done well?

- Staff have a good knowledge of the stepping stones and use of the curriculum.
- Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals and very good progress in their physical development and knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Staff make effective use of the outdoor area and surrounding environment.
- Partnership with parents is very good and parents are encouraged to become involved in their children's learning.

What needs to be improved?

- the management of the children's behaviour in large group situations, with an emphasis on developing the children's concentration and listening skills.
- the resources for mathematical development.

- the daily planning, to offer more challenge and structure for the older four year olds and more able three year olds.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Small group work has been extended and three and four year olds have more times in the day when they are not with a mixed group.

Staff have attended planning and assessment training.

Staff have attended behaviour management training.

Planning has improved to ensure a clearer focus on learning.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are making generally good progress in this area. They are forming good relationships with their peer group and show concern for each other. Staff have developed the children's confidence and self esteem by giving regular praise and encouragement and the children are happy and secure in their environment. Behaviour is generally good. However, staff are sometimes not always effective in their strategies for getting children to listen in group situations.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's learning in this area is generally good. Most children can converse fluently to each other and adults. Staff are effective in drawing out the children's language for thinking and exploring words, they recall experiences and exchange ideas. Children have good opportunities to develop mark making into writing. They enjoy stories and are encouraged to use books. The children's listening skills are not fully developed and staff's management is not always effective in a group situation.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are making generally good progress in their mathematical development. Daily routines and situations are used for children to count and use numbers, for example, number rhymes and songs, register, and circle time. The children show interest in shape and size and have planned opportunities to compare, measure and solve practical problems. However, resources are not available for the children to use spontaneously. The main resources are used for planned activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in this area. Children explore, investigate and learn about the living and growing natural world around them. They confidently use a range of building materials with skill and imagination. Information technology and programmable toys are used on a daily basis. Children are becoming aware of their own community and environment and beginning to learn about other cultures and beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in their physical development. The nursery has a small but well planned garden area where the children have daily opportunities to climb, balance, jump and ride and staff make good use of the surrounding area outside the nursery for nature trails and walks. The children have experience of using small tools for modelling and making pictures and learn to handle tools with safety and control.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children are making generally good progress in their creative development. They have daily opportunities to make pictures and models using a variety of materials and textures. Children are given sufficient freedom to express themselves and are able to use their imagination in role play, singing and dance. However, at times older children cannot participate fully in more challenging activities due to the mixed age range.	

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

- Improve daily plans to ensure activities are sufficiently challenging for the older 4 year olds and more able 3 year olds.
- Improve the behaviour, listening and concentration skills of the children, especially in large group situations.
- Improve resources for mathematical development.

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.