



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 120198

DfES Number: 597369

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/04/2004
Inspector Name	Carol Newman

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Scallywags
Setting Address	Congregational Church Hall Stainash Crescent Staines Middlesex TW18 1AY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Melanie Lunn
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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

Sallywags has been established since 1999. It is registered to look after a maximum of 30 children aged from two years to five years. The play group operates from the Congregational Church Hall in Staines and serves the local community. Children have access to the hall, two adjacent rooms and a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

Opening times are five mornings per week from 09:15 to 12:15 hours, term time only.

There are currently 48 children on roll. This includes 11 funded three year olds and 21 funded four year olds. The setting has procedures in place for caring for children with special educational needs and/or English as an additional language.

Seven members of staff work with the children on various days, of which six have a recognised early years qualification. One member of staff is on a training programme. Five members of staff hold a current first aid certificate.

The setting receives support from a mentor/advisor from the Early Years Childcare Service. Both this group and the sister group have close links with the local primary school and mother and toddler groups.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Sallywags offers high quality provision, which helps children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

Teaching is very good in all areas of learning. Staff consistently use open ended questions to support children's play and develop their language and thinking skills. They take time to give clear explanations to the children. Children have access to a range of well planned activities and excellent resources that are used effectively. Staff respect the children's ideas, value their work and display it attractively. They use their experience and knowledge to extend activities for more able children. Staff make regular observations of children's skills to inform future planning. Effective procedures are in place to support children with special needs and english as an additional language. Staff ensure children are gainfully employed which has a positive effect on their behaviour.

Leadership and management are very good. Staff are well supported by the effective managers. They work together for the benefit of the children and the maintenance of the high quality educational provision. Staff are encouraged to identify their own training needs through the staff appraisal system. They regularly attend courses and share their knowledge with the rest of the team.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good and contributes to children's progress. Parents are well informed about the foundation stage and the children's activities through the parent noticeboards, regular newsletters and an open week when parents may work alongside their children. Parents are kept informed of their children's progress through key worker meetings, individual contact books and informal feedback each day. A suggestion wallet is available for parent's ideas.

What is being done well?

- Children's mathematical development is excellent. They count confidently and use developing mathematical ideas to solve simple problems such as regulating the number of children at the climbing frame.
- Children have access to a stimulating, well planned range of activities that encourage progress in all six areas of learning.
- Parents are given clear information about the provision and are well informed about their children's progress. They are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning and to reinforce skills at home.
- Staff are well supported by the committed owners. They work together for the benefit of the children and the improvement of the educational provision.

What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- children's individual record keeping so that it links closely to the stepping stones in order to track each child's progress towards the early learning goals
- regular activities, such as prayer and story time so that they reflect today's diverse society and are non stereotypical.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress since the last inspection is very good. The group have introduced contact books for every child so that parents can contribute to the children's records. A system of staff appraisal is now in place and planning is based on the six areas of learning.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidently try new activities. They share and negotiate and understand the consequences of their actions. Children attend to their personal needs such as visiting the toilet independently. Children understand that the views and cultures of others should be treated with respect and they learn about acceptable behaviour through the use of familiar rhymes. Staff ensure activities are presented attractively which has a positive influence on children's concentration and motivation.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's communication skills are developing well. They enjoy listening to stories and speak confidently. Children are introduced to simple words that have meaning through labelling within the learning environment. They use books for enjoyment and to locate information and treat them with respect. Children write for a purpose during role play and use talk to reflect their own experiences. Children recognise their full names and are beginning to write these with correctly formed letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently to 10 and beyond during registration and when lining up for outdoor play. They use developing mathematical ideas to solve problems such as regulating the number of children on the climbing frame. Children demonstrate an understanding of addition and subtraction when singing familiar number songs and when working out how many "cats" and "kittens" are present. Staff encourage children to use number effectively throughout the daily routine.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children observe change when cooking pizza, growing cress and melting chocolate to coat apples. They show curiosity and ask questions about the tree pruning, the visiting pets and when the refuse is collected. Children construct with a range of materials such as octagons, magnets and mega blocks and they operate simple computer programs efficiently.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are encouraged to manoeuvre bicycles, run and play ball games outdoors whilst developing an awareness of each other's safety and the available space. Children are set challenges such as catching bubbles, walking on stilts and stepping through hoops. They pour from one container to the other during water play and use scissors competently. Children regularly explore materials such as play dough, using a range of tools. They learn about healthy practices through their topic work.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children explore colour and texture as they paint leaves, create collage pictures and print with sponges, stencils and pine cones. They sing familiar songs with confidence, act out different roles and use musical instruments to tap out rhythms. Children use their senses to smell flowers, draw runner beans and taste the fruits for their topic work. They play imaginatively with small world figures, in the role play area and when they fill their vehicles with petrol during outdoor play.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- continue to develop children's individual record keeping so that it links closely to the stepping stones in order to track each child's progress towards the early learning goals.
- ensure regular activities, such as prayer and story time reflect today's diverse society and are non stereotypical.

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.