



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY236227

DfES Number: 544068

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/12/2004
Inspector Name	Beryl Witheridge

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	1st Friends Day Nursery
Setting Address	Our Lady of Gillingham 2a Ingram Road Gillingham Kent ME7 1YL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The partnership of 1st Friends Day Nursery Ltd
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	1st Friends Day Nursery Ltd
Address	7 Wallace Road Rochester Kent ME1 2SZ

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

1st Friend's Day Nursery opened in 2002 and operates from four rooms in an old school building. It is situated in Gillingham and serves the local area. A maximum of 54 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07.00 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 54 children aged from four months to under five years on roll. Of these 13 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area, as most of their parents travel in to work on or around the industrial estate. The nursery currently supports children with special educational needs, and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 13 staff. There are ten members of the staff, including the manager, who hold appropriate early years qualifications. There are two staff working towards a qualification.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

1st Friends Day Nursery is acceptable and of good quality overall. The children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. Not all staff show a secure knowledge of how children learn. Planning and evaluation has improved but not all staff are involved in this. The children have a good relationship with the staff. Good supporting photographic evidence is provided but this is not always dated. Staff teach the children by example. They encourage the children to move freely between activities and support them in the use of the available resources. The children are confident and most are generally well behaved but the disruptive behaviour of the few has an unsettling effect on the majority.

Leadership and management is generally good. The staff work together well as a team, supporting each other and the children. Training is encouraged and most staff have undertaken recent training or short courses. Not all staff are secure in their knowledge of the Early Learning Goals and need to reinforce their previous learning. Staff meetings are held regularly and staff are able to discuss future learning needs of the children. Plans are not always clear and areas of learning are sometimes missed. The differing needs of three and four year olds are identified but the needs of the more able are sometimes missed.

The partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are warmly welcomed into the setting. They are given up-to-date information about the group through the use of newsletters. Parents are aware of the policies and procedures and they are given information about the early Learning Goals. Parent questionnaires are used to gauge how they feel about the group and what they would like to see improved. They are able to see the children's reports and discuss them with staff. Parents feel that they are able to approach staff at any time to discuss their child.

What is being done well?

- The children are developing an awareness and understanding of the needs of others. They show a caring attitude and a willingness to help.
- Good use is made of the safe and secure outside play area. It encourages children to move with co-ordination, to develop a sense of space and their motor skills.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is good. Children are confident and independent and form good relationships with staff and their peers.
- Partnership with parents is positive and parents are encouraged to come into the group and take an active interest in their child's progress.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Children are confident communicators. They are able to use resources to act out every day activities and imaginary situations. |
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What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● all staff's knowledge and understanding of the Early Learning Goals, record keeping, evaluation and planning.● more opportunities for calculating and using comparative language.● opportunities to help children form letters correctly and write their names.● children's attention as they do not always listen to staff.● the behaviour management of some children who can overwhelm the whole group or the children working directly with them.● the dating of photographic evidence.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have good self esteem and confidence. They are able to access toys and equipment freely. Children are able to form relationships, take turns and play together in groups. The children show an interest and delight in their work and achievements. Children do not always listen to staff. The behaviour of some children can overwhelm the whole group, or the children working directly with them.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children enjoy books and understand that print carries meaning. There are lots of opportunities for children to make marks and use pens and pencils. Staff sometimes miss opportunities to help children form letters correctly and write their names. Children are confident speakers with the ability to express themselves clearly.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have opportunities to count, recognise numbers and shapes. The children have opportunities to describe shape, size and quantity. They can ably recreate patterns. There is no evidence of staff encouraging the children to use comparison, or simple addition and subtraction.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Staff provide opportunities for children to learn about the natural world. Activities are planned which give the children opportunities to explore the world around them and to learn about how others live. There is photographic and planning evidence that children have looked at different festivals and celebrations. Photographic evidence is not always dated. There is limited use of information and communication technology and programmable toys.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are given opportunities for outdoor play and are able to move with control and co-ordination. They show ability and confidence in the use of both large and small equipment. Children show that they have a good awareness of space and each other both indoors and outside.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are able to explore media and materials and show a pride in their achievements. They are able to respond to what they see, hear, touch and feel. Children show an interest and enjoyment in creative activities. Staff support children when they are not sure how to use equipment.	
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

- provide staff with more training opportunities to improve their knowledge of the Early Learning Goals, record keeping, evaluation and planning
- provide the children with more opportunities for simple calculation and the use of comparative language
- look at behaviour management strategies to ensure that the behaviour of the few does not disrupt all the other children.

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.