



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100523

DfES Number: 516770

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/11/2003
Inspector Name	Samantha Powis

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St James Pre-school Link
Setting Address	St James Church Pokesdown Bournemouth Dorset BH7 6DW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Barbara-Anne Mills
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ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

St. James Pre-School link operates from the main hall adjoining St James's Church, in the Pokesdown area of Bournemouth. They also have use of the adjacent primary school's playground for outside play. The group are registered to care for a maximum of 26 children aged two to under five years and operate each weekday morning during school terms from 08:45 until 12:00.

The pre-school is privately owned and has been registered since April 1996. There is a staff of nine, five of these have appropriate childcare qualifications, with one other staff member currently undertaking NVQ 3 training in childcare and education. All staff are experienced in childcare.

There are currently 42 children on roll, of these there are 31 funded three year olds and 1 funded four year old. The group have experience of supporting children who have special educational needs, and for whom English is an additional language.

The group are supported by Bournemouth Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, and are members of the Bournemouth quality assurance scheme.

How good is the Day Care?

St James Pre-school link provides good quality care for children. The group employs high ratios of qualified and experienced staff who are clear on their roles and responsibilities, and continue to undertake training to update their childcare skills and knowledge. Good use is made of the excellent range of stimulating toys, resources and equipment, to create an interesting and welcoming environment for both parents and children. Policies and procedures are in place and referred to in practice, however, some information included needs updating.

Staff are deployed effectively to offer good supervision, and are vigilant about children's safety. A high percentage of staff have attended paediatric first aid training, and first aid kits are available on the premises. Accident and medication records are in place, however, the detail included in these needs to be improved.

Staff demonstrate a good awareness of child protection procedures, and information is provided for parents, to ensure they are aware of the groups role and responsibility in this area.

Children are offered an excellent range of activities which are interesting, stimulating and fun. They are motivated to try new experiences and are supported by the skilled questioning of staff to extend their understanding. Resources are presented well to allow children opportunities to select and choose their own equipment, which helps them develop independence. Staff demonstrate a clear awareness of children's individual needs, and adapt activities to ensure they offer appropriate challenge to each child. Staff manage children's behaviour very well, and apply a consistent and fair approach, whilst using positive strategies to reward good behaviour.

Positive relationships have been established with parents. Good information is sought from them about the family and child's individual needs, and there are regular opportunities for parents to exchange information with their child's key worker.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The pre-school has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection. They were asked at the time to increase children's opportunities to access drinking water during the session. They have tried to introduce a self service system, which proved not to be successful, and now ask children to bring their own containers of drink, which are available throughout the session, or remind children that they may have a drink if they are thirsty. Drinks are regularly provided mid morning, during snack time.

What is being done well?

- The group have an excellent range of well maintained toys and equipment, which are stored effectively to ensure children can access them independently.
- Staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's individual needs, and provide an excellent range of activities to extend children's learning. They are skilled at using good questioning techniques to increase children's thinking and develop their understanding.
- Staff are consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour, and use praise and encouragement well to reward good behaviour. Children are generally well behaved, creating a busy but relaxed atmosphere.
- Staff are mindful of children's safety at all times, and good ratios of staff ensure that children are always well supervised throughout the session.

What needs to be improved?

- information included in accident and medication records to ensure it contains sufficient detail.
- the system in place to review policies and procedures to ensure information

is accurate.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
7	Ensure written accident and medication records contain sufficient accurate information.
14	Ensure policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to include up to date information regarding regulation and legislation.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

St James Pre-school Link provides very good quality nursery education where children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good, staff have clear knowledge of the six areas of learning. Their use of effective questioning and excellent teaching methods, enables children to progress in all areas of their learning. Children are extremely well motivated in their learning and the staff provide a stimulating and inviting environment. All activities and resources are accessible which promotes the children's independence. Staff are positive role models and the children are very confident and well behaved, they relate well to their peers and staff.

Leadership and management of the nursery is very good. There is strong leadership and commitment to encourage and enable staff to extend their personal development. The staff team work very well together ensuring a consistent approach, they are very committed to providing the best for all children.

Partnership with parents is very good. They are kept well informed on all aspects of the preschool through, detailed information in the prospectus, informal discussions with staff, regular newsletters, termly reports, parents notice board and specific information mornings on the Early Learning Goals. Parents feel welcome and comfortable in approaching staff, and are encouraged to be totally involved in their child's learning.

What is being done well?

- Children are highly motivated, interested in their learning and manage their own behaviour well. They have built strong relationships with their peers and show high levels of confidence talking to the staff.
- Children's spoken language is developing very well through effectively planned activities that extend their vocabulary.
- The staff work very hard to ensure the preschool provides a welcoming inviting environment, all equipment and resources are accessible to the children, promoting their independence. The staff create inviting areas of play within the setting.
- Varied opportunities for children to be creative selecting their own resources from the wide range of materials on offer.
- The staff have a clear understanding of the six areas of learning and stepping stones. They use effective questioning to enable children to progress in their learning.
- There are good opportunities for children to develop exploration and investigation skills through interesting projects, activities and equipment.

What needs to be improved?

- points for consideration would be:
- increase opportunities for children to develop their climbing skills, moving over and under.
- make the book area more inviting to children to develop their independent book skills.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The preschool has made generally good progress since the last inspection. The grouping of children allows children to develop and progress at their own pace. Staff have adjusted daily routine to limit times when the children are doing group activities, encouraging their attention span. Children have excellent opportunities to develop their writing skills. However staff need to increase opportunities for children to develop independent book skills, and increase children's climbing skills.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children separate from carers with confidence and are keen to start playing. Children have developed excellent listening and concentration skills during registration, circle time and stories. They are developing and building strong relationships with the staff and their peers. The children are highly motivated, interested in their learning and manage their own behaviour well.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children recognise their own names at self registration. Children's spoken language is developing very well through effectively planned activities that extend their vocabulary. Children have very good opportunities to develop emergent writing skills. Some children write with confidence. However staff could make the book area more inviting to children to develop their independent book skills.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidentially count to 10 and beyond. They use positional language during everyday practical activities. Children demonstrate good awareness of properties of shapes and can identify within their environment. Excellent use of mathematical resources to support children's learning.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Very good opportunities for children to develop exploration and investigation skills through interesting projects, activities and equipment. In particular staff have innovative use of magnets and projects on the natural world. The children build a good sense of community through visits into the local community and a range of visitors to the group. Children have use of programmable toys and technology in every day activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use an excellent range of small tools, including scissors, rolling pins, hammers and nails with competence and confidence. The children are learning about bodily awareness through everyday activities and interesting projects. However staff could increase opportunities for children to develop their climbing skills, moving over and under.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
<p>Variety of opportunities for children to be creative selecting their own resources. Children have very good opportunities to move to music, joining in enthusiastically, recognising sounds and following simple beats. There are excellent opportunities to develop their imagination through role play in the hospital and pet shop, developing their own ideas.</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 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 weakness to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following;
- increase opportunities for children to develop their climbing skills, moving over and under.
- make the book area more inviting to children to develop their independent book skills.

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.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.