



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 500129

DfES Number: 534407

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	04/11/2004
Inspector Name	Susan, Helen Spencer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Kidsunlimited nurseries
Setting Address	Little Flyers Nursery Thorley Avenue Ringway Altrincham WA15 8UN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	. kidsunlimited
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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

Kids Unlimited Little Flyers Nursery opened on the present site in January 2001. It operates from a purpose built single storey building close to Manchester Airport. There are four main rooms, one of which is used by the pre-school group of children. It predominantly serves people who work at Manchester Airport although occasionally places are offered to the general public.

The nursery can accommodate up to 80 children dependant upon their age. Currently there are 70 children on roll aged between three months and four years. This includes eight funded three year olds. Currently no children have special educational needs and none use English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week throughout the year. Sessions are from 7.30 until 18.00hrs.

Nineteen full and part-time staff work with the children. Most of the staff hold or are working towards recognised child care qualifications. The nursery receives support from an advisory teacher from Manchester City Council.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Little Flyers Nursery provides good quality nursery education overall which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. They make very good progress in all areas except knowledge and understanding of the world where progress is generally good.

Teaching is generally good. Plans are detailed and comprehensive. Staff's ability to relate plans to the early learning goals indicates their knowledge of the goals. However plans are not always a clear or an accurate reflection of the activities on offer to children. Children who learn quickly are challenged, some children are exceeding the expectations of their age group. Staff are warm, friendly and consistent in their management of a range of behaviours. Time and resources are managed well overall but some resources are left out for too long or not adapted to stimulate children's interest. Regular observations of children are used to inform planning for future learning. Children's views and interests are canvassed when new themes are introduced. This ensures that children's future learning is based on what they already know.

The leadership and management are generally good. Kids Unlimited provides a secure infrastructure on which managers can build. 'Model Nursery Inspections' are carried out by the company and are effective in identifying strengths and areas for improvement. Current systems to review curriculum planning on a day-to-day basis are less effective.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff and managers work hard to meet the needs of working parents by providing good opportunities for parents to attend meetings and events. Parents find staff caring, friendly and approachable. They appreciate the regular feedback on their children's progress and achievement. Parents have free access to the record of achievement which can be taken home. Their comments are welcomed and information about children is freely shared. They find open events useful and informative.

What is being done well?

- Staff value and respect children's views by consulting them about the planning of new themes. This ensures that planning reflects the children's interests as well as building upon what they already know and can do. Staff record this information along with the comments made by children and display it alongside other planning documentation.
- Staff make regular and useful observations of children that are recorded for the benefit of parents and to ensure that children's individual needs are met through planned activities. These observations clearly reflect the stepping stones towards the early learning goals and show how children progress and achieve the goals over time.

- Managers and staff work hard to ensure that the needs of working parents are met. They do this by planning open events at a range of times, including Saturdays to enable all parents to attend at a time to suit them. The manager also makes regular visits to the airport to meet parents at lunchtime in the workplace. The 'Parent Nursery Association' works very successfully.
- Children are challenged at a level that is appropriate to their age and developmental needs. Staff manage this effectively and as a result those children who are able and learn quickly are exceeding the expectations of their age group in their mathematical development and early reading skills.
- Children's art and craft work is of a high standard. They have free access to materials and have chances to freely express their own ideas. They are also encouraged to talk about what they see and draw or paint to make a record of what they have seen and learnt.

What needs to be improved?

- the management of resources to sustain children's interest throughout the day by recognising that some materials need to be changed or that children can benefit and learn more as a result of adult intervention
- the presentation and use of construction materials to ensure that children make best use of them
- systems to monitor and review the delivery of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis to ensure that planned activities take place. This will ensure full coverage of the early learning goals and ensure that no learning opportunities are missed.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

This area receives high priority. Children are well-behaved and polite, needing few reminders about good manners. Children are confident, happily expressing their own ideas at circle time. They play well together, share resources and take turns as they play games. They have well-developed skills of personal independence, managing their own clothing, serving food and attending to their own personal hygiene. They are learning about a range of cultures through planned themes and celebrations.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children talk confidently to adults and friends. They use language imaginatively through role play. They listen carefully at circle and story times. They learn about letter shapes, names and sounds making good associations. All children recognise their own names and many recognise the names of friends. Books and stories are popular and enjoyed by the children. They have good chances to write for a purpose but the use of worksheets is less successful in fostering their early attempts at writing.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use numbers confidently. Planned activities challenge those who learn quickly. Some children are able to count to 20 and beyond with confidence. They learn about more and less and are beginning to make simple calculations as they count the number of girls and boys in the group. They handle numbers as they engage in role play in the café and when they sing number songs and rhymes. They learn about shape and pattern by playing games, matching shapes, threading and using peg boards.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Planned themes and free play are effective in promoting children's understanding of the natural and made world. They observe, investigate and record their findings by drawing what they have seen or learnt. They have access to a range of materials to design and build their own structures but these are not always presented in ways that inspire and interest children, which limits their use. They learn about their own community as well as celebrating festivals representing more diverse cultures.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move confidently and safely. They have many chances to exercise and develop their large muscles using climbing equipment and wheeled toys. Bodily control is encouraged through Yoga and moving imaginatively, for example children 'slither and roll'. 'Soccer Tots' provides chances for them to practise and improve their skills using small equipment such as bats and balls. A good range of tools and associated materials fosters children's manual dexterity as they become competent tool users.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's own work is valued and features prominently in displays. They produce good quality work, including observational paintings of sunflowers, and papier mache models of hedgehogs. They explore colour, texture and form as they use paint and collage materials freely. Children sing tunefully as they play and they have access to musical instruments to accompany their singing and explore sound. They enjoy role play and make imaginative use of the materials to act out their own scenarios.

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

- manage and use resources in ways that appeal to children and engage their interest, paying particular attention to construction play
- devise a system to monitor and review planning to ensure that children have chances to take part in the full range of activities on offer.

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.