



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 310420

DfES Number: 583034

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/09/2004  
Inspector Name Elizabeth Margaret Grocott

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Fox House Day Nursery  
Setting Address 57 Foxhouse Lane  
Maghull  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L31 3EW

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Margaret, James and Anna Brown  
Address 57 Foxhouse Lane  
Liverpool  
Merseyside  
L31 3EW

## 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

Fox House Day Nursery is registered to Mrs Margaret Brown. It opened in 1996 and operates from two rooms in a purpose-built building. It is situated in a residential area in Maghull, Liverpool close to bus and rail links. A maximum of 15 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:15 for 52 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

The service is provided on a full or part-time basis. Funding is available for three and four-year-old children. The nursery employs five staff and a cook. Four staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. The other staff member is currently working towards an NVQ Level two.

### How good is the Day Care?

Fox House Day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children.

Staff providing care are suitably qualified to do so. The operational plan works well, but not all staff are fully aware of the policies and procedures. The way the group is organised, means that very young children are expected to sit for long periods. The environment is bright and warm but smells damp and musty. The outdoor area is currently hazardous, due to construction work. Children access the bathroom independently however the water is too hot and paper towels not accessible. The toys and equipment provided is well maintained with good selections available. These include resources promoting diversity. Documentation has been updated and stored securely, there is an effective method of sharing information for babies.

CCTV is in operation and security is prioritised. Sleeping children are monitored regularly and all staff are supervised until checks are clear. Routines encourage children in good hygiene practices and policies protect them from illness. The policy on medication is inadequate. There is a four-week menu and children with special dietary requirements are catered for. The menu does not reflect a nutritious and balanced diet. Staff are familiar with possible signs of abuse, but are not confident

about procedures.

Children enjoy a range of activities and entertainment. They take part in yoga, music, feeding birds and craft. Staff and children have built strong bonds. They cuddle and share jokes. Staff provide good role models and children behave well. When children are expected to sit for long periods, behaviour deteriorates. All individual needs are met and staff constantly boost children's self-esteem. A range of checks made on babies, ensures the parents have a full record of their day. The provision welcomes children with special needs.

Parents are pleased with the service they receive. Staff work hard to ensure a good flow of communication.

### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

A Total of 11 actions were raised at the last inspection. Nine of them related to documentation which needed updating in line with the national standards. These have all been done and provide a sound base to underpin the service. The two actions still outstanding related to plans in connection with the proposed extension. The extension has not been completed.

### **What is being done well?**

- A lot of work has gone into the production of an operational plan with the result of a more organised and easy reference set of documents.
- There is good care of babies. A well planned and organised system ensures that the youngest children are given the attention they need and parents can be confident in the information they are given about their day.
- There is good attention to equal opportunities. All individual needs are met appropriately, and children are given the opportunity to learn about other cultures through a variety of play experiences.

### **What needs to be improved?**

- organisation of planning, so that younger children are not expected to sit for long periods
- the smell of damp and must in the nursery and children's access to paper towels
- the safety of the outdoor area and electric sockets and wires
- the policy relating to Calopl
- the menus to promote a healthy eating
- the training for the identified SENCO worker and the staff's understanding of policies and procedures

**Outcome of the inspection**

Satisfactory

**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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
4	provide evidence of advice taken after consultation with environmental health department regarding water temperatures and the presence of damp air	02/09/2004
6	ensure children don't have access to unfinished concrete area outside and that sockets and trailing wires are secured	02/09/2004
8	review menus to increase the amount of vegetables and reduce processed foods	02/10/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
6	use risk assessments as a working tool.
7	review policy on administration of Calpol
2	plan differently so that younger children are not expected to sit for long periods
4	ensure children can access paper towels at all times
8	re position the water jug and cups to encourage children to access
10	access training to further skills and knowledge in special needs and ensure staff understand the policies and procedures that underpin the service

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The overall quality of the nursery education at Fox House is good. Children make very good progress towards the early learning goals for communication, language and literacy, physical development and creative development. They make generally good progress in other areas.

The quality of teaching is good overall. Staff have positive relationships with the children. They promote confidence and self esteem well through effective use of praise and the establishment of clear routines. Children behave well in response to staff's high expectations. Staff have a generally good knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals with the exception of children's use of technology. Staff plan a good range of practical, interesting activities. Learning objectives are not made clear in planning and as a result learning is not always developed to the full. Staff introduce and explain activities well, but are not always able to sustain children's interest in activities due to inappropriate grouping of funded children with younger ones. They develop children' speaking and listening skills well. Staff do not fully exploit chances to develop children's counting skills in every day situations. They know the children very well and use assessments effectively to inform planning.

The leadership and management of the nursery is generally good. The provider and supervisor show a commitment to staff training and development. The provider carries out regular staff appraisals which effectively highlight training needs. Staff roles and deployment are not always clear with the result that learning from some activities is not maximised.

The partnership with parents and carers is generally good. Parents are encouraged to contribute to topics and develop learning at home. They have limited information about the educational provision. They encouraged to share what they know about their child. There are no formal chances for parents to learn about their children's achievements and progress.

### What is being done well?

- Staff have positive, warm relationships with the children.
- Staff make good use of enthusiastic praise and encouragement to build children's confidence and self esteem.
- Children are secure in well established routines.
- Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour and children behave very well.
- Staff make good use of planned activities to effectively develop children's speaking and listening skills.

- Staff introduce and explain activities well and this has a positive effect on children's learning.
- Children's creativity and physical development are promoted well through broad variety of experiences.
- Children are developing a good understanding of their own culture and beliefs and those of others.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- grouping of children to maximise learning from the activities planned
- planning of activities and management of staff to make clear learning objectives, grouping and staff deployment
- chances for children to learn to count and to learn about the uses of technology.
- opportunities for parents to be informed about their child's achievement and progress
- the level of information for parents about the early learning goals in the 6 areas of learning.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

The nursery has made limited progress in meeting the key issues identified in the previous inspection report. The nursery was required to improve the level of information to parents about the educational provision and encourage parents to become more involved in their children's learning. The nursery was also required to adapt planning to show how children will be grouped and staff deployed.

Parents are now better informed about the educational provision through a newsletter which gives some information about the current topic. There is still limited information available for parents about the six areas of learning and the early learning goals. This continues to be a key issue following this inspection.

Parents are now encouraged to be more involved in their children's learning. The newsletter invites them to carry out topic related activities at home with their children. This has had a positive effect on children's learning.

The nursery has introduced a key worker system which effectively groups children for assessment purposes. This has had a positive effect on the quality of assessment and children's learning. However, grouping and staff deployment are still not identified on plans with the result that learning is not always developed to the full. This continues to be key issue following this inspection.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have positive relationships with staff and each other. They are secure in the routines of nursery yet are happy to adapt when routines change. Behaviour is good. Children sit quietly at register time and line up well for outdoor play. At circle time children show interest in an activity about leaves they have collected, but inappropriate grouping of children means children's concentration is not sustained. Children are developing a good understanding of their own culture and beliefs.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children express their thoughts and ideas clearly as they talk to staff about their news or an imaginary event. They show good listening skills as they listen attentively to stories and instructions for a yoga activity. Children show enjoyment and understanding of stories as they choose books to 'read' to themselves. They confidently recognise their names. Children are developing good pencil control as they trace over the letters of their name.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are effectively learning to use mathematical language as they measure rice for cooking and discuss 'small' and 'large' toys. In a yoga session children demonstrate their good understanding of positional language as they follow instructions. They are developing good pattern making and shape recognition skills. Some children show confidence in counting to 5. There are insufficient chances for children to learn to count in every day situations.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are developing a good awareness of their immediate environment through regular visitors to nursery and outings to the local library. They show curiosity and observe change as they watch the plants and vegetables they are growing in the outdoor area. Children look closely at the similarities and differences in leaves they have collected. They effectively learn about other cultures. There are too few chances for children to be aware of the uses of technology.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move with good control and co-ordination during a yoga session. They demonstrate a good awareness of space as they negotiate the outdoor play space with wheeled toys. Children are developing confidence using play dough tools, construction toys and large equipment such as a climbing frame and slide. Children show a growing awareness of the effect of exercise on their bodies as they describe feeling 'hot' and 'tired'.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

Children express themselves freely using a good variety of different materials and techniques. They are developing a good understanding of colour and explore this through painting, printing and collage. Children listen to different types of music and explore sound through regular use of good range of instruments. They play imaginatively with dolls and 'small world' toys. Children effectively learn to respond to different textures as they explore play dough and rice and make bread.

**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**

- adapt grouping of children to maximise learning
- ensure staff are clear about deployment and learning objectives and that this is reflected in planning.
- provide more chances for children to learn about the uses of technology and make use of every day opportunities for children to learn to count.
- ensure that parents have regular opportunities to be informed about their child's achievements and progress.
- provide more information to parents about the early learning goals in the 6 areas.

*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.*