



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 226231

DfES Number: 518188

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	06/02/2003
Inspector Name	Amanda Bull

### SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name	NOAHS ARK PLAYGROUP
Setting Address	PENTECOSTAL STREET COALVILLE LEICESTERSHIRE

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	MRS SHARON ELLISON
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	
Address	

## 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
Noah's Ark Pre-School Playgroup was established in 1990 and is managed by the Full Gospel Mission on a Christian basis. The setting, which encompasses a pre-school and a playgroup, caters for 20 children aged between two and a half and five years of age. The playgroup serves the younger children and the four year olds are provided for in the pre-school. The same staff are deployed across the groups and facilities and resources are shared. The pre-school is open from 9.15am to 11.45am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and the playgroup opens from 12.45pm to 2.45pm on the same days. The group operates for 36 weeks per year. The group runs from a church hall in Coalville and serves Coalville and the surrounding area. It is registered to accept nursery education funding. At present there are 59 children on roll, including 15 funded four year olds and 33 funded three year olds. Children are grouped together in a large room, they also have access to the story room, church room and adjacent toilets. The intake of children reflects a variety of social and economic backgrounds but there is limited cultural diversity in the area. At present there are some children in attendance for whom English is an additional language. Staff have experience of catering for children identified as having special educational needs. In total seven members of staff work with children throughout the week, normally four members of staff work each session. Five members of staff hold recognised child care qualifications. The group is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and receives support from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership through visits from a mentor teacher. The group is also a lead setting for the local education authority which means that it is an establishment that may be visited by other providers to observe practice.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Noah's Ark Pre-School Playgroup provides a stimulating environment where children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. The quality of teaching is generally good and all staff have input into planning with the proprietor overseeing this. All areas of learning are covered and all staff record progress. Staff meetings are in place and training is cascaded to staff at the end of each term. Staff interact well with children and have high expectations of their behaviour. The leadership and management of the nursery is very good and staff are aware of the group's aims and objectives. Staff work well as a team and are well supported by training opportunities. Partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive a good range of information about the group and their children and have the opportunity to speak to staff daily. A weekly book is sent home to parents which records what children have participated in and parents are invited to comment in this. An Open Evening is held yearly for parents and when children move from the playgroup to the pre-school parents are invited, in small groups, to discuss with staff what the move entails. The group's policies and procedures have been issued to all parents.

### What is being done well?

The nursery has a strong management lead and training is given a high priority. Partnership with parents is given a high priority and good information is disseminated about the nursery, children and curriculum. Children are happy, confident and interested and have access to a wide range of resources to support learning. Children and staff interact well and staff have high expectations of childrens' behaviour. The group uses good opportunities to link activities so that learning is across all areas. Staff make very good use of questioning and activities to extend childrens' vocabulary. Very good opportunities are taken to extend the childrens' knowledge and understanding of the world by a range of experiences. Children have access to a wide range of resources to extend their physical skills. Children enjoy imaginative play and music and movement.

### What needs to be improved?

Increased opportunities for children to read familiar words and sentences and to use books to locate information.

### What has improved since the last inspection?

The group has increased resources to support childrens' learning in the area of Knowledge and Understanding of the World. Festivals are celebrated and parents are used to provide views of different cultures, children are given the opportunity to experience foods from other cultures. Parents are given more information about their child's transition from playgroup to pre-school by small group meetings. A weekly

diary is also sent home to parents and their comments invited. Extra planning has been completed for physical development so staff are able to ensure all children have opportunities to develop their learning. Staff monitor childrens' free choice activities to ensure that they have access to all resources to increase experiences.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children work well independently and in groups. Childrens' self esteem and confidence is fostered by opportunities to speak and sing in front of the group. They are enthusiastic and able to take turns and share. Children are confident and able to develop good relationships with their peers and adults. Good behaviour is encouraged and children respond to this.	

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children interact well with adults and peers and are able to negotiate with and listen to others to meet their needs. Children speak clearly and with confidence. Children are able to use language to locate themselves in time and space within their environment. There is a lack of opportunities for children to use books to locate information and to read familiar words and sentences. There are very good opportunities for children to practice writing and extend their vocabulary.	

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are able to use numbers in everyday situations and show they understand size and shape through practical activities, counting reliably numbers 1 to 10. Children are confident in using correct mathematical language, linking shapes to everyday objects. A wide range of resources are available for children to increase their number awareness.	

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are developing a very good understanding of their own and other's cultures. Opportunities are taken to extend children's knowledge of the world around them by trips out and the exploration and investigation of nature. Good links are made between these activities and visits by other people within the community. There are good opportunities for children to learn about information and communication technology.	

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children move confidently and safely and have opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Very good opportunities are used to encourage children's abilities and children are able to use a range of tools and equipment to extend their experiences. Children are made aware of themselves and keeping healthy by activities and talks.	

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good

Children are able to explore colour and shape through a variety of materials. Children are able to sing songs, explore and make sounds and match movements to music. Good opportunities are taken for role playing and children have many opportunities to make music as staff have skills in this area.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately:	Y
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<b>OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION</b>
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.

<b>WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT</b>
Increase opportunities for children to use books to locate information and to begin to read familiar words and simple sentences.