



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 305146

DfES Number: 541177

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 03/09/2004
Inspector Name Susan, Helen Spencer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Leapfrog Day Nursery (Northwich)
Setting Address Leapfrog Day Nursery, 1 Kingsmead Square
Regency Way, Kingsmead
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 8UW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Leapfrog Day Nurseries (Trading) Ltd 3229362

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Leapfrog Day Nurseries (Trading) Ltd
Address Central Office
Second Avenue, Centrum 100
Burton-on-Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 2WF

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

Leapfrog Day Nursery opened in 2000. It operates from six rooms, in a single storey building situated within a new housing development. The nursery serves the local and surrounding areas.

Leapfrog is registered to provide care for a maximum of 107 children aged from birth to under eight years, and of these, not more than 38 may be under two years. There are currently 160 children on roll. This includes 19 funded three year olds and no funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently no children who have special needs and no children who speak English as an additional language.

Leapfrog opens from Monday to Friday, all year around. Sessions are from 07.00 to 19.00.

There are 38 staff within the setting, of these there is a manager, administrator and full-time cook, 24 full-time and 8 part-time staff work with the children. Twenty-one have early year's qualifications. Eight are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Leapfrog Day Nursery offers high quality nursery education that gives children a good foundation for future learning. Children make very good progress towards the early learning goals. This is as a result of the effective methods staff use to engage children's interest and to promote their independence.

Teaching is very good. Staff have a secure knowledge of all areas of the children's learning. Planning is conscientious. It ensures that children are offered experiences in all areas of learning and makes clear what they are intended to learn. Assessments of the children's progress are regularly completed and used appropriately to inform future planning. Staff are enthusiastic and work well as a team to provide interesting and varied experiences while making good use of a broad range of resources. Staff's interactions with children are very effective and their caring relationships promote well the children's confidence, independence and social skills. They have high expectations of behaviour and as a result children behave well.

The nursery is very well led and managed. Staff are very aware of their roles and responsibilities, and this results in the efficient and effective day-to-day running of the nursery. Management and staff are committed to developing their practice through staff induction, appraisal and ongoing training. The manager effectively leads and encourages staff, creating a very positive ethos within which the opinions of staff and parents are clearly valued.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are fully informed about the nursery's routines, practices, curriculum and activities. The staff provide a welcoming atmosphere and are willing and able to share information with parents about their child's progress, in addition to the provision of daily report forms. Parents also have access to their child's development file on request and are invited to regular parents' evenings.

What is being done well?

- Management values the skills of the staff and good leadership ensures continual improvement through a commitment to staff development.
- Staff plan and enthusiastically provide a wealth of purposeful interesting activities to promote children's development in all areas of learning. They are very good role models and build trusting relationships with children by their emphasis on mutual care and respect.
- Children are happy, confident and independent. They interact well with their peers and with adults. Their behaviour is very good; they are polite and are learning to care for and respect each other.

- Parents are provided with good quality information and opportunities for a regular two-way flow of information.

What needs to be improved?

- provide more opportunities for children to see and recognise numbers within the nursery's environment.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There has been no previous inspection of the 3 to 4 year olds provision.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, interested, confident and able to work on their own and within a group. They are forming good relationships and enthusiastically participate in activities. They are learning to negotiate with others during play, to share and to take turns. Children's behaviour is very good; they recognise and understand the boundaries and respond well to guidance from staff. Children's independence is fostered well; they help tidy away and serve their own snacks at meal times.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak clearly and fluently. They are confidently able to express their needs, talk about themselves and initiate conversations with others. Children listen carefully to stories and are active participants in songs and rhymes. They use books with enthusiasm and know how they work. Older children link sounds to letters during planned and spontaneous activities. All have regular opportunities to develop their pre-writing skills and some older children can write their names.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing counting skills and initiate these skills in everyday situations, comfortably counting up to ten and often beyond, although there is no number line on display to assist them in recognising numbers. Older children are developing the concept of estimating when guessing and measuring, and they make good use of mathematical language to describe size, shape and position. Children enjoy sequencing and creating patterns, and are able to sort items according to colour or size.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are given time and encouragement to use all their senses to investigate a wide range of materials. They talk freely and confidently about significant things that happen and are able to differentiate between past and present. Children also talk freely about their family, their home and holiday experiences, and demonstrate a growing understanding of the world we live in. They use a variety of materials to build and construct recognisable objects.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Children are developing a good awareness of their own needs in regard to health and hygiene and confidently take responsibility for these tasks. They participate with enthusiasm in many outdoor activities, confidently using the large climbing frame. They are also able to steer and negotiate space when using wheeled toys, while others are developing skills of using bats and balls. Children are adept at using small tools and equipment to develop their manipulative skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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

Children have a good repertoire of songs. The more confident children name additional songs to sing and most join in with words, actions and at times with musical instruments. They enjoy role play. Younger children observe what adults do and are then able to repeat this. Many play co-operatively to act out more imaginative situations in the 'home' and 'jungle' corners. Children delight in tactile experiences and explore colours, textures and shapes to communicate their ideas.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

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 weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to:
- providing more opportunities for children to recognise numbers.

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.