



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 122674

DfES Number: 517263

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/03/2004
Inspector Name	Joanne Lindsey Caswell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Newdigate Pre-School
Setting Address	Village Street Newdigate Dorking Surrey RH5 5DJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Newdigate Pre-School
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Newdigate Pre-School
Address	Newdigate Pre-School Village Street, Newdigate Dorking Surrey RH5 5DJ

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

Newdigate Pre-School opened in its current premises in 1994, although it has been established in the village since 1970. It operates from self-contained premises within Newdigate Infant School, which is in the centre of the village. Children have access to a large group room with adjoining toilet and hand washing facilities. Staff have sole access to kitchen facilities. There is a fully enclosed outside play area, which can be used all year round and children also benefit from the use of the extensive school playing fields, including a swimming pool for supervised swimming lessons for four year olds in the summer term.

There are currently 64 children, aged from two to four years, on roll. This includes 25 funded three year olds and 19 funded four year olds. There are currently no funded children attending, for whom English is an additional language. The pre-school has experience of supporting children with special educational needs.

The pre-school opens Monday to Friday, during term time only. Sessions are from 09:00 to 11:50 and 12:30 to 15:15.

A team of six staff work with the children. Four staff hold recognised early years qualifications and further training is available to all staff. Traditional early learning methods are used, with emphasis placed on learning through play. The pre-school is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and receives support from Surrey Early Years and Childcare Service.

How good is the Day Care?

Newdigate Pre-School provides good quality care for children. It is managed by a team of professionally qualified, motivated and dedicated staff who are keen to extend their knowledge and skills and have completed extensive further training. The pre-school is very well-organised and the daily routine enables children to participate in an excellent selection of activities. Staff provide a very stimulating, caring and secure environment and the premises are maintained to a high standard. There is an excellent selection of good quality equipment and resources, which children can

access easily. All regulatory documentation is in place, although some existing accident records are not signed by parents.

Staff are extremely vigilant regarding children's health and safety and good procedures are in place to ensure safe practice and high standards of care. Children's dietary needs are catered for and all staff value children as individuals and respect their differing needs. Staff have experience in supporting children with special educational needs and have undertaken further training. Good procedures are in place for managing child protection issues and staff are aware of their responsibilities.

Staff provide an excellent range of curriculum activities to stimulate children's learning and development. They vary the routine accordingly, to cater for children's differing abilities and ensure equality of opportunity for all children. Children interact well with one another and develop their social skills within a loving and caring environment. Staff manage children's behaviour extremely well and children respond positively to the praise and encouragement they are given.

Staff develop excellent relationships with parents and good procedures are in place to ensure parents are fully involved in their children's care and learning. Staff offer a welcoming environment for parents and exchange information about their children's progress on a regular basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff are committed to ensuring all children receive a high standard of care. They are dedicated to all the children in the pre-school and meet their individual needs accordingly. They provide a very homely, relaxed and loving atmosphere, in which children feel safe, secure and happy.
- Children have access to an excellent selection of activities and benefit from both indoor and outdoor play. They have extensive opportunities to meet their overall developmental needs.
- Children's behaviour is managed extremely well. Children respond to the positive and happy atmosphere and show a clear understanding of staff's expectations.
- Staff are experienced child care professionals. They have a clear understanding of how children learn and provide appropriate activities. They are extremely proactive in increasing their knowledge and skills and ensuring pre-school practice is continually improved.
- The pre-school is very well resourced. Children have access to an extensive range of high quality toys, equipment and furniture, all of which is well maintained and is used appropriately.

- Staff interact with children extremely well. They enjoy their company and are knowledgeable of the children's differing needs. Children respond well to staff and approach them happily.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The teaching methods adopted by staff are fun, creative and practical. Staff present children with an extensive range of well-planned, creative activities which capture children's imagination and encourage them to learn and stimulate their play. Children enjoy an excellent range of highly imaginative and inspiring topics and activities, which encourage them to develop their curiosity and learn new skills.

What needs to be improved?

- the recording of existing injuries

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 all accidents are recorded appropriately.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Newdigate Pre-School provides very good nursery education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff are qualified early years practitioners who work very well together as a professional team. They provide an excellent range of interesting and stimulating learning activities and utilise every opportunity available to promote and extend children's development. They present activities in a fun and highly creative format, for example the role play Squirrel's Drey and Workman's Café. Effective planning and good use of time enables staff to respond to children's interests and enable children to initiate topic and activity ideas. Staff make full use of the assessment procedure and ensure regular observations are carried out to monitor children's progress and inform the next stages of planning. Good teaching methods enable staff to challenge children appropriately and adapt activities where necessary.

The leadership and management of the pre-school is very good. Staff are led by an experienced manager who is committed to continually reviewing practice to make on-going improvements. The staff team is well-established and staff have worked together for many years. They are motivated and totally dedicated to the success of the pre-school and meeting children's personal needs. Staff training is recognised as a priority and all staff have benefited from an extensive range of additional training. An appraisal system formally identifies the strengths and weaknesses of provision and a detailed development plan lists key objectives staff are committed to achieving.

The partnership with parents is very good. Procedures are in place to ensure parents are fully aware of pre-school policies and additional information is available to ensure parents are kept informed of pre-school topics and activities, to enable them to extend children's learning at home.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is given strong emphasis. Children are extremely confident, very motivated to learn and keen to develop their skills and knowledge.
- Staff form excellent relationships with children. They have a thorough knowledge of all the children in the pre-school and are aware of each of their differing needs, enabling staff to meet them accordingly. Children are very happy and settled in staff's care and approach them confidently.
- The dedication and commitment of the staff team ensures children receive a high standard of care and education at all times. Staff are continually reviewing their practice and ensure their knowledge and professional skills

are kept updated through the completion of further training.

- Staff present all activities and topics in a fun and practical format. Excellent teaching methods capture children's imagination and encourage creativity and curiosity. Staff utilise all opportunities for learning and extend these through outside play, group discussion, topic ideas and themes.
- Children behave extremely well. They are clearly aware of expected boundaries and show respect for one another.

What needs to be improved?

- the provision for extending places to more children

What has improved since the last inspection?

Sine the last Ofsted inspection in December 1999, staff have made very good progress in addressing the point for consideration raised.

Staff have implemented a daily deployment of staff plan, informing all staff of their key areas for responsibility for each session. As a result of this action, all staff are now more focused on their own duties and activities, enabling pre-school sessions to run smoothly with effective staff deployment and all areas being suitably supervised.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident, happy and motivated to learn. They show curiosity for new things and concentrate well. They are developing a keen interest in their surroundings and are beginning to have an understanding of the needs of others. They are sociable and co-operative and have high self-esteem. They are developing good skills in independence and are able to make their own choices and decisions. Children are extremely responsive to all pre-school activities and their behaviour is excellent.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children use language well to communicate. They have a wide vocabulary, using words such as 'crenellations' as part of their castle topic. They engage in conversation and discussion with adults and their peers. They are developing a good understanding of letters and sounds and enjoy regular writing activities, including handwriting and making their own story books. Children have access to an excellent selection of books and are developing an interest in using books to obtain information.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's mathematical skills are developing well. They have an excellent understanding of number and are able to count confidently and complete simple calculation. Children develop a good understanding of mathematical concepts such as size, weight and shape through practical learning and an excellent range of resources enables children to sort and make comparisons, using appropriate mathematical language.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have plenty of opportunities to explore, experiment, observe and investigate. Good provision is made for children to look at features of the local community and develop an understanding of the lives of other people. The well-planned, current topic of Homes enables children to develop an understanding of castles and discover how houses are built. They enjoy regular science activities and are developing their understanding of other cultures and customs, such as Chinese New Year.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children's physical skills are well-developed. They show good co-ordination and their gross and fine motor skills are developing well. Children handle a range of tools and use equipment with increasing skill. Good provision enables children to climb, crawl, balance, swim and move freely using a range of apparatus such as wheeled toys and a climbing frame. Children use paintbrushes, scissors, pens/pencils, chalk and charcoal with good control, dexterity and manipulative skill.	

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are able to express themselves freely and imaginatively using a variety of different materials. Children are extremely creative and excellent provision is made for role play and musical activities. Children undertake a wide range of art and craft work, using an excellent selection of media, such as paint, glue, charcoal, collage and dough. Good provision is made for children to listen to different types of music and they enjoy regular sessions using the percussion instruments.	

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 consideration should be given to improving the following:
- continue to develop the expansion of the group to provide an increased number of places

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.