



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 116839

DfES Number: 521692

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	11/05/2004
Inspector Name	Susan Victoria May

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Josephs Nursery Group
Setting Address	Berkshire Drive Tilehurst Reading Berkshire RG31 5JJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Maureen Petersen
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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

St Joseph's Nursery was established in 1987 and is located in the church hall of St Joseph's Catholic Church. The intake of children reflects the make-up of the local church community and it serves the needs of families within this area.

St Joseph's Nursery accepts 26 children between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years old. There are currently 26 children on roll. This includes 15 funded 4 year olds and 14 funded 3 year olds. The setting supports children with special needs and children who have English as an additional language.

The nursery opens Monday to Wednesday and Friday between 09.15 – 11.45 and Thursday between 12.40 - 15.10 term times only. Three staff work across the age groups; one is a qualified teacher. All staff hold current first aid certificates. The group works closely with the serving priest. There is a cleaner who maintains the house keeping within the hall.

The nursery liaises on a regular basis with the local Catholic school.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

St. Josephs Nursery Group provides high quality nursery education overall which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Children are confident, happy, secure and eager to participate in the wide range of learning opportunities provided for them. Daily activities promote children's personal independence and staff work hard to build children's self esteem giving them appropriate responsibilities. Children are polite and courteous and respond positively to the high expectations and sensitive support of staff. Staff are very effective in their use of questioning to encourage and extend children's thinking. Children have ample opportunities for mark making and treat books with respect. Children's physical development is progressing well. Opportunities to balance and climb and access to resources to increase awareness of others cultures are limited. Systems are in place to effectively support children with special educational needs and for whom English is an additional language.

Leadership and management is very good. A strong staff team is in place, who are committed to providing a rich, well planned stimulating environment where children learn through a wide range of activities. A realistic planning and thorough assessment system is used well to effectively check children's progress towards the early learning goals. Activities are evaluated and used to inform future planning.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good and contributes well to the children's learning. Parents are kept informed about activities and routines through verbal exchanges and regular correspondence. They share their observations about their child and the supervisor helps parents understand how they can support children's learning at home.

What is being done well?

- Children are happy, secure and curious, they are articulate and interact well with staff expressing personal preferences and making independent choices. Staff work hard to build children's confidence and develop their self-esteem.
- Children have the opportunity to count and use numbers regularly. Simple addition and subtraction is developed through a variety of situations. Songs, rhymes and effective teaching methods promote and reinforce learning.
- Children use and attempt writing for different purposes and are beginning to form letters. They recognise their own names and most of the children write their name with confidence. Name cards are accessible to aid the children where necessary.

What needs to be improved?

- children's opportunities to climb, balance and move over and under equipment developing their gross motor skills
- the use of resources to enhance children's knowledge of cultures outside their experience.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. A collection of objects has been built up and new resources purchased to provide opportunities for the children to look at and explore independently, increasing their understanding of why things happen and how they work.

Opportunities are provided for the children to explore sound through making their own musical instruments and experimenting with a range of nursery musical instruments informally and in planned activities.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Relationships between staff and children are very good and children show consideration, sensitivity and support for others. The children are happy, secure, curious and eager to participate in activities. Daily activities provide opportunities for personal independence for example children self select resources. Children are confident in their interaction with staff and can express themselves well. Children respond appropriately to the clear expectations for acceptable behaviour.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and articulate speakers who engage easily in conversation. Very good activities are provided fostering language and literacy skills and there are many opportunities provided for writing for a variety of purposes. Staff make very good use of questioning to encourage children's thinking. Most children are able to write their own names and recognise letter sounds. Staff provide a broad range of suitable books which the children enjoy and treat with respect.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident with numbers and counting, many children are able to recognise written numbers to nine. They can count up to ten with many able to count up to twenty and beyond. Children are developing an understanding of addition and subtraction through nursery rhymes and everyday activities. Children are able to use comparative and positional language and recognise shapes. A good use of posters and displays throughout the setting promotes and reinforces the children's learning.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Topics and daily activities develop children's confidence in exploring and investigating. Children especially enjoyed handling items on the interest table, discussing and exploring them enthusiastically. Children are able to question why things happen and how things work through simple experiments. Regular opportunities are made for children to talk about past and present events in their own lives. Children explore the local area and talk knowledgeably about the environment and the wider world.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children's physical skills are developing well. There are daily opportunities for children to develop and practise fine motor skills. Children's awareness of the space both around themselves and others is evident in the confident way they move around indoors. Children are knowledgeable about and show awareness of how their bodies function, for example, joining in and talking about breathing in the adult led yoga session.	

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children participate enthusiastically in imaginative play and stories, they enjoy adult-led songs and rhymes. They are encouraged to express their imagination through a range of planned activities including design and music and movement sessions. Children are confident and capable with tools, learning new techniques and reinforcing skills on a daily basis. Opportunities to experience different materials are seen in their work, which show evidence of the wide range of materials used.	

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 weakness to report but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- extend children's opportunities to climb, balance and move over and under equipment to develop their gross motor skills
- provide resources to enhance children's knowledge of cultures outside their experience.

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.