



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 119949

DfES Number: 581618

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 16/11/2004 |
| Inspector Name | Catherine Hill |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Sessional Day Care |
| Setting Name | Briars Nursery Cabin |
| Setting Address | Lightwater Village School Catena Rise Lightwater Surrey GU18 5RD |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | Mrs Teresa Anne Stockham |
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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

Briars Cabin Nursery opened in 1997 as a sister nursery to the Briars Centre Nursery in Lightwater. Both are managed by the owner. The nursery operates from a Portakabin in the grounds of Lightwater Village School and serves the local community. The school hall and grounds are also available to the nursery.

There are currently 23 children on roll. This includes 8 funded 3-year-olds and 11 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery has procedures in place to support children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language. There are no funded children currently in need of support.

The nursery is open 5 mornings a week from 09:15 to 12:00 during term time only. Siblings of children who attend the school are permitted to start at 09:00.

There are eight staff in total on the team with four members of staff present at each session. Five members of staff hold relevant qualifications in childcare and professional development is ongoing.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Briars Cabin Nursery is an acceptable provision and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards all early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff plan an interesting and varied range of activities to provide children with excellent opportunities to progress in all skill areas. They maintain detailed assessment records to clearly show children's progress through the stepping stones. They are kind, sensitive and patient in supporting children to achieve. They effectively use a range of teaching strategies to develop children's knowledge and understanding. Staff have good relationships with children and take a continual interest in them. They have high expectations with regard to behaviour and maintain a calm, stimulating, well resourced learning environment where children feel secure and happy. Children are interested in activities, enjoy their play and behave well.

Leadership and management is very good. Staff are very well organised and deployed effectively throughout sessions to provide constant support and encouragement to children. They have clearly defined roles and responsibilities. There is an ongoing review of policy and practice to ensure high standards are maintained and improved and a new ideas book details changes to practice which are acknowledged by all staff. Some reviews of practice are, however, via discussion only and no written records are held as evidence.

Partnership with parents is very good. They receive regular and detailed information regarding nursery practice via newsletters, verbal exchanges and information displayed. They are kept well informed about their child's achievements and are encouraged to be involved with their child's learning. They are positive in their praise of the group and the happy and safe environment provided for their children's education.

What is being done well?

- Personal, social and emotional development is excellent. Children are happy, motivated learners who enjoy their play. They work well both independently and co-operatively with others. They behave well, have excellent manners and form good relationships with staff and each other.
- Organisation of the nursery is very good. Enthusiastic, caring staff effectively plan the curriculum to ensure all children enjoy a range of stimulating, fun activities which support their development across all six areas of learning. The observation and assessment system used to track children's progress is highly efficient and informs future planning to ensure that individual needs are met.
- There is an effective partnership with parents which contributes to the very

good progress which children make at the nursery.

What needs to be improved?

- record keeping, in relation to activity evaluations and staff meetings, to provide clearer evidence of the monitoring and evaluation of the provision for nursery education.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress since the last inspection is very good. There were points for consideration relating to literacy and creative development. The nursery had to consider increasing opportunities for children to become aware of the elements of stories. Children have free access to a range of books and well planned individual sessions ensure that staff can spend time discussing books with them. Storytelling is made interesting with the use of appropriate visual aids and children are made aware of the titles and authors of books. The nursery also had to consider giving children more choice during creative activities with the resources used and to provide more opportunities to use imagination through music and dance. Children have excellent opportunities to freely select from a range of tools and materials when involved in creative play. For example, they have access to paints, colouring pencils, glue, scissors, cellotape, paper, card and collage materials. Children use their imagination well during regular music and movement sessions which are held in the school hall. They freely select musical instruments, as appropriate, to express their interpretations of, for example, the noise of different animals.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children show interest and enthusiasm during activities and are motivated to learn. They concentrate well and persevere with activities until completed to their satisfaction, for example when making minibeasts from craft resources. They are confident and have excellent relationships with each other and staff. They play co-operatively together and show kindness and consideration for others. They behave well, have excellent manners and their independence skills are developing well.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children's reading skills are very well developed. They enjoy books and listen attentively to stories. They join in with predictive text and use picture clues to 'read' to themselves. They recognise their name cards and some are able to read key word cards. They link sounds to letters and are developing an understanding of sentence construction. They enjoy freely practising their writing skills, for example, when making party invitations. Individual sessions ensure children progress well.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children are very confident with numbers and counting. They count reliably up to 10 and some count to over 30. Daily date activities reinforce their awareness of written numbers above ten. Staff skilfully develop children's knowledge of addition and subtraction during everyday activities. Children are familiar with the terms more and less and are able to calculate correctly when adding or subtracting simple numbers. They recognise and can match basic shapes and can differentiate lengths.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Well planned and resourced activities ensure that all children are developing their knowledge of the wider world. They have looked at similarities, differences and change when learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, experimenting with bubbles and learning about other countries. They competently use the computer to support their learning and show skill in designing and making objects out of mosaic beads. They know the sequence of the days of the week and about the change in seasons.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children move confidently and safely throughout the setting. They show balance, co-ordination and control when using apparatus to complete an obstacle course and when negotiating stairs. They display a sense of space when they form a line or sit in a circle. They understand which foods constitute a healthy diet and planned topics develop their awareness of their bodies. They competently use brushes, pencils, scissors and glue sticks and skilfully manipulate small scale construction.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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| Judgement: | Very Good |
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Children enjoy exploring colour, shape and form as they make insects from playdough and freely selected craft resources. They experiment with different mediums of applying paint and recognise different colours. Their observation skills are good. They recognise detail in pictures and use their senses well to respond to experiences, for example noticing the smell of different fruit. Their imaginative skills are good. They make pictures of giants using basic shapes and act out scenes in role play.

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 but consideration should be given to improving the following area:
- maintain written records of activity evaluations and staff meetings to provide clearer evidence of the monitoring and evaluation of the provision for nursery education.

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.