



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 137376

DfES Number: 513065

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/02/2004
Inspector Name	Mandy Mooney

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Village Nursery
Setting Address	Prince Imperial Road Chislehurst Kent BR7 5LX

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Village Nurseries Ltd 04051776
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Village Nurseries Ltd
Address	Bluebell Lodge Wilkins Way Brasted Kent TN16 1JG

## 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

The Village Nursery (Methodist Church) is a privately owned group, which is part of a group of nurseries based in Greenwich and Bromley Boroughs. The nursery is based in Orpington and offers a service for children from the surrounding area.

The nursery is based in a Methodist church and has sole use of a large hall, two smaller rooms and an outside play area. There are also kitchen and toilet facilities within the centre. The Centre has good transport links and is close to local shops and facilities.

The nursery opens five days, term time only. Opening hours are 9.15 to 12.00 and children attend various sessions a week. Children with special educational needs and those who have English as an additional language are fully supported.

The nursery implements a curriculum based on the Foundation Stage and over half the staff have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Village Nurseries (The Methodist Hall) provides good quality nursery education. Children are making generally good progress towards the Early Learning Goals. They are provided with a happy environment that includes a wide variety of interesting and stimulating learning opportunities.

Teaching is generally good. Children's behaviour is managed in a positive and consistent manner and staff are on hand to support children in their attempts to share and take turns. Good use is made of space and resources; children have plenty of space to take part in activities, however at times enjoyment is restricted due to poor organisation and unclear staff responsibility. The daily routine allows time for children to take part in freely chosen activities. Adult led activities are planned by individual staff members who generally demonstrate a good knowledge of the Early Learning Goals. Staff spend the majority of the session working directly with the children who respond well to the challenges presented to them.

Leadership and management is very good. There is a positive approach to evaluating and improving provision. The new owners have appointed a curriculum co-ordinator who has quickly identified weaknesses in the educational provision and is actively supporting staff in addressing them. Long-term plans have been produced which ensure a balanced coverage of the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Partnership with parents is very good. Information about nursery activities is readily available and there are regular opportunities for staff and parents to discuss children's progress.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. They are encouraged to share and take turns and develop appropriate social skills.
- The children are provided with a good variety of learning opportunities to help enhance their all round development.
- The pre-school provides good information for parents about children's activities and parents are actively encouraged to be involved in the life of the group.
- The owners, manager and staff have a positive attitude towards identifying weaknesses and improving the quality of their educational provision.

### What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to problem solve in mathematics and learn about the environment through investigation and also by visiting the community

- opportunities for children to become more aware of their bodies and health and to look at and enjoy rhythm and sound
- the general organisation of group activities and a review of the responsibility and understanding of staff with regards to the planning and carrying out of the activities to support the children's enjoyment of the opportunities provided.

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

New equipment and resources have been purchased to further develop the book area and increase the children's enjoyment of books.

Staff carry out regular observations of the children to inform future progress reports on the children.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are eager to take part in nursery activities they are able to use their initiative and make choices from the resources on offer. Children clearly know the daily routine and are developing appropriate independence skills. There are sufficient opportunities for children to respond to different cultural events and to gain an understanding of the diversity of our society.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children respond with enthusiasm to songs and rhymes, they enjoy sharing books and listening to stories. However they do not make independent use of the book corner. Children recognise their own names. Some 4 year olds are able to write their names using appropriate upper and lower case letters. They are developing handwriting skills through planned activities. Opportunities for children to link sounds to letters are limited.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Some 4 year olds are able to count beyond 10; they are able to select the correct numeral to represent a group of 1 to 5 objects. Children are able to sort objects by colour, size and shape; they are able to name basic colours and shapes. Records indicate that children are starting to use comparative language to describe size and weight. Children's ability to solve mathematical problems is limited by the lack of planned opportunities and challenge in free play situations.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children notice changes in their environment such as the weather and are able to discuss their observations. However free-play opportunities do not promote the investigation of man-made and living objects. Some 4 year olds know the uses of everyday technology. There are planned opportunities for children to learn about different cultures and beliefs. Opportunities for children to learn about the community are restricted as they are not taken out and visitors are very limited.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are able to use scissors, pencils and dough tools with some skill and are developing good hand-eye co-ordination. Children show a good awareness of space when negotiating their way around the nursery. Opportunities to climb, balance, throw and catch ensure that children are developing good large motor skills. Children are not provided with opportunities to learn about health and body awareness.

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children use a variety of media in free collage and adult led craft activities and are eager to discuss their work with adults. In role-play children act out familiar scenarios based on their own experiences. They are able to sing some simple rhymes and are enthusiastic participants in circle games. They are provided with opportunities to use musical instruments, however this lacks planning and opportunities to listen to and discuss rhythm and sound are limited.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	

## **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

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.

## **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES**

- Plan free play sessions to include opportunities for children to investigate a variety of objects, learn about the local community, practise mathematical problem solving skills and linking sounds to letters and to enjoy rhythm and sound.
- Provide opportunities for children to develop their understanding of good health and to have an awareness of their bodies.
- Review the organisation of group activities and of the responsibility and understanding of staff, with regards to the planning and carrying out of the activities to support the children's enjoyment of the opportunities provided.

*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.*