



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 316454

DfES Number: 524966

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 24/01/2005  
Inspector Name Susan, Helen Spencer

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Fisherfield Farm Children's Day Nursery  
Setting Address Fisherfield Farm  
Hargate Avenue  
Rochdale  
Lancashire  
OL12 6BT

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Fisherfield Farm Nursery Limited

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Fisherfield Farm Nursery Limited  
Address Fisherfield Farm  
Hargate Avenue  
Rochdale  
Lancashire  
OL12 6BT

## 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

Fisherfield Farm Nursery at Hargate Avenue was opened in 1996 and was the first of four nurseries to be registered in the group of Fisherfield Farm Nurseries in Rochdale.

The service is located in a purpose built single storey building at the end of a cul de sac in a residential area of Rochdale. The children are grouped according to age in three playrooms and a separate baby unit. The outside play area has both paved and grassed surfaces.

The setting cares for a maximum of 45 children from 3 months to 5 years. This currently includes 17 funded 3 year olds and 8 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. None of the funded children have special educational needs or speak English as an additional language.

The nursery is open for 51 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 07.30 to 18.00, Monday to Friday. A total of 18 staff cares for the children, all of whom hold relevant childcare qualifications.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Fisherfield Farm Children's Day Nursery, at Hargate Avenue, offers high quality education for the three- and four-year-old children. Children make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a secure understanding of the areas of learning. They are enthusiastic and work well together as a team to produce interesting and varied activities, making use of a broad range of resources. Staff's interactions with children are very effective and promote well the children's confidence, independence and social skills. They have high expectations of children's behaviour and are good role models, using praise and encouragement effectively. Plans based on children's previous learning ensure children are offered experiences matched to their stage of development. The plans make clear what children are expected to learn in each of the six areas of learning. Assessments are completed on a very regular ongoing basis.

The leadership and management are very good. Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and work well together to create a happy, caring learning environment. Monitoring and evaluation of the nursery provision is an ongoing process. There is a strong commitment to staff training and development to enable and encourage a rolling programme of improvements in the education of the children.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the nursery's provision, how it is organised and the learning opportunities provided for their children. Staff are able and willing to share information with parents on their child's progress. Parents can request access to their child's records at any time, and regular parents' evenings are held.

### What is being done well?

- Staff work well with the children, listen, support, question and encourage the children's curiosity and eagerness to learn.
- Children are happy, excited, keen learners. They interact well with each other, they share, take turns and converse confidently as they engage in their activities.
- Lots of practical activities are provided to help develop the children's counting skills and recognition of shapes, whilst encouraging them to think carefully and so solve simple problems.
- Children know their colours, delighting in recognising and naming them. They enjoy exploring colours during painting and textures such as cornflour mixed with water, as well as eagerly investigating and finding out how things work and what they are made of.

- Parents have a positive view of the nursery. They are made very welcome and are well informed on a daily basis about what their children are learning.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the attractiveness of the book area.

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

Since the last inspection in 1999 there has been very good progress on the one key issue raised.

The planning now clearly indicates what children are expected to learn in each of the six areas, and the outcomes are evaluated. In addition, a new proforma is now systematically used to record the children's progress.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are interested, confident and able to work on their own or as part of a group. They quickly settle to a task, showing growing skills in concentration and perseverance. With adult support they are learning the skills of negotiation, sharing, caring, tidying up and behaving well. Children appreciate the need to treat each other with respect, showing awareness of their own and others' cultures. All are developing good personal independence, especially during snack times.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are encouraged to express their needs and talk about themselves. They listen with enjoyment to stories and often sit looking at books, handling them carefully and correctly, although the book area could be more exciting. Children know print carries meaning, recognise their names and identify some letters by sound and shape. Most enjoy developing their pre-writing skills, while many are attempting to write their names and some recognisable letters.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing their counting skills and are starting to recognise numerals. They can count to five very confidently and many can count to ten and beyond. Some are starting to grasp the concept of more or less and to solve simple problems. Children make good use of mathematical language and accurately use words to depict size such as biggest and smallest, position such as front and behind, and to identify shapes, for example circles, triangles and squares.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are encouraged to use all their senses to investigate a wide range of materials and construction kits. They enjoy using the computer and a selection of technological toys. All show an understanding of time as they talk freely about their families and their friends, often recalling past events. They are aware of weather changes and are keen to develop their knowledge of the environment by constantly seeking information.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children enthusiastically engage in lots of activities that encourage hand eye co-ordination using scissors, pencils, nuts and bolts. They show a growing sense of spatial awareness as they move in their relatively small indoor area. Children are learning the importance of staying healthy. Outside they move with pleasure and growing confidence as they run, skip and practise their balancing skills. All have access to an array of large climbing and balancing equipment.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children freely express their ideas using a wide range of media and materials. All gleefully make three-dimensional models using a range of junk boxes. Children know their colours and delight in mixing colours during painting. They give full flight to their imaginations during an ever-changing series of role play activities. Many delight in exploring sounds using musical instruments and all enjoy singing rhymes.

**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:
- ensuring the book area is more inviting.

*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.*