



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 130642

DfES Number: 546184

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	01/02/2005
Inspector Name	Suman Willis

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St James Rd Church Pre-School
Setting Address	St James Road Watford Hertfordshire

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St James Road Church Pre Sch Management Committee
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St James Road Church Pre Sch Management Committee
Address	St. James Road Watford Hertfordshire WD18 0DZ

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 James Road Church Pre School registered in 1992 when the Children's Act came into force, and also provided pre-school provision prior to this date. It operates from a large hall, two small group rooms situated within a church building which is close the St. James Church and the setting largely serves the local community of west Watford. A maximum of 24 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery sessions are from 09:30 to 12:00 noon and 12:30 to 15:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

There are currently 40 children from 2 to 4 years on the roll. Of these 20 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local community. The pre-school supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The pre-school employs five part-time staff, three of these are hold appropriate early years qualifications. The group leader is a qualified teacher.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at St. James Road Church Pre-School is of high quality overall. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of their development.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a sound knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage. All staff are fully involved in planning and delivering an appropriate curriculum which challenges and extends children's learning. Children enjoy participating in a wide range of interesting activities and staff are very skilled at asking open ended questions that encourage them to think. Regular observations of the children's development ensures that staff are familiar with the level of progress the children are making, this process is being further developed at present. Staff are very good role models and provide an environment which is calm but busy.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. The group is fully supported by the church committee and the group leader supports a strong team of committed staff. They are well deployed to engage with children at all times. Regular meetings ensure that they are all fully involved in the running of the nursery and are given equal responsibilities. Regular appraisals highlight areas of development and staff are pro-active in updating their skills. They are all committed to improving care and education for all children.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive detailed information about the pre-school, its policies and procedures. Parents felt that all staff were very approachable and that they were made to feel welcome at any time to discuss the progress their child is making. Formal meetings are also offered once a term to discuss their child's progress in depth.

What is being done well?

- Children are given ample opportunities to extend their learning through play. They are happy within their environment and access resources confidently to extend their imaginative play by pretending the home corner is an ice cream shop. They skilfully use the toaster, microwave and computer to develop their IT skills.
- Music sessions are well planned to ensure that children enjoy all aspects of this area of learning. They particularly enjoyed playing instruments making loud and soft noises to represent weather conditions. During music and movement, children's learning is extended to reaching, bending and touching parts of the body. One child commented on how much fun he had.
- The cosy well equipped book corner is well utilised by children. They enjoy listening to stories and looking at books as they sit comfortably with a

member of staff.

- Staff are particularly skilled at extending children's learning by asking lots of open ended questions as they engage children's interest. Children enthusiastically recall the story of 'La-La' during small group time. They give children's options to encourage thinking as they ask whether the child would like to build a tower or castle.
- There is a strong team of staff who all play an equal role in implementing and delivering a wide range of interesting activities. They take full responsibility for their personal development and attend courses to extend their own understanding of how children learn.

What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant key issues identified at this inspection but the following point for development should be considered.
- Continue to develop planning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This does not apply, it is the nursery's first education inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children settle happily and confidently with their chosen activity. They are able to sit and concentrate at group time and excited to share their knowledge, for example recognising the picture of a bobbin and singing wind the bobbin up. They are making friends amongst their own peer groups and approach staff with ease, some are keen to share information with visitors. Children are eager to follow instructions and help with tidying up. They are continuing to develop their independence skills.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy sharing books in the cosy book corner and are beginning to understand that print carries meaning and is read from left to right. They are able to recall elements of the story at small group time. Children are excited at being able to predict what may happen next. They enjoy following line patterns and mark making using a variety of tools. Labels in different languages encourage an understanding of different prints. Children are beginning to recognise their own names.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count up to 14 enthusiastically with support at group time. They are keen to join in and count up to 10 to the rhyme 'once I caught a fish alive'. They are developing their skills to solve problems by using a computer balloon game to add and subtract numbers up to five. Some children enjoyed using the weighing machine to weigh teddies and add more/less to make it balance, this is extended to heavier/lighter. They are keen to recognise and recreate simple patterns using threading beads.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are keen to smell and feel oranges and lemons at group time. They investigate and enjoy comparing colour changes when mixing yellow and red. They are able to construct using 'large slot blocks to build with and are given opportunities to create collages using different materials. Children have ample opportunities to develop their ICT skills by using computers, a toaster and microwave. They are beginning to develop a sense of time and place through topic work.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to move around their environment safely and with control. They use their body imaginatively during musical movement sessions. They are able to travel up and between two climbing frames by going under, over and through the circles. Children are able to control their bikes as they ride fast around others. They manipulate small tools around the home corner and playdough well. They are offered healthy snacks of fruit and milk/water.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children confidently paint pictures using different colours during free play and enjoy mixing pink and yellow to make orange in small group time. Together they enthusiastically sponge print an orange ball. They thoroughly enjoy playing musical instruments within a focussed session. Children confidently select pictures from a box and enjoy relating it to a familiar nursery rhyme. They extend their role play around the home corner by pretending to buy an ice cream.

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:

- Continue to further develop planning

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.