



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 119578

DfES Number: 531740

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/08/2003
Inspector Name Mandy Mooney

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name John Smith Childrens Centre
Setting Address 90 Stepney Way
Stepney
London
E1 2EN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Isabel Darling

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 John Smith's Children's Centre was opened in 1994. The centre is housed in a purpose built children's centre, which in 1996 became an integrated service for children with severe learning difficulties and special educational needs. The centre caters for a culturally and linguistic diverse local community and is open for 51 weeks a year from 8am to 17.30. It is located close to both bus routes and Whitechapel main line train station.

The early years unit is registered to provide full day care for 22 children from 18 months to under five years. At present there are no four year olds and 12 three years attending, all of whom currently receive government funding. Currently in the early years unit there are nine children with either severe learning difficulties or physical disabilities. Of the funded children five have been identified as having special educational needs and four have English as an additional language. There are currently 22 children on roll.

Including the centre manager, there are currently 17 staff working with the children, three of whom are based in the community provision, which is separate from the early years unit. All staff hold a relevant qualification in childcare.

The centre's community provision offers a wide range of drop in and support groups to the local community, it is a well used provision, which has approximately 1250 - 1500 users each month. The community provision also hosts a Bangladeshi mothers support group and a recently established childminder network.

The centre is supported by Tower Hamlets Early Years Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

John Smith Children's Centre offers high quality nursery education where children enjoy learning through a wide variety of interesting and stimulating activities. Effective teaching helps the children make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The teaching is very good and staff show clear knowledge of how children learn and the early learning goals. They use their knowledge to plan and provide a broad based curriculum that includes a very good range of challenging and interesting practical activities and experiences. The integration and inclusion of children with special educational needs is very good and is built around working closely with parents and outside agencies. There is an effective system in place to support children children who have English as an additional language.

Staff show positive and skillful management of childrens behaviour and have expectations of behaviour. They use a wide variety of strategies to encourage good behaviour including lots of praise, encouragement and acting as good role models of positive behaviour.

The assessment of children's learning is very good and staff use their observations to complete each child's assessment records. Leadership and management are very good and there is clear leadership and a well structured management team. There is a strong commitment to ongoing staff development and improving the nursery education. Partnership with parents and carers is very good. They are provided with a wide range of information about the centre and activities provided for the children. Children are cared for according to their parents wishes and parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the centre. Parents are also kept informed about their children's development and progress.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children are confident, well behaved and have developed good relationships with their peers and staff.
- Staff's clear understanding of the early learning goals helps them develop interesting, challenging and well planned activities for the children.
- The partnership with parents is strong and staff work very hard to involve parents in the life of the centre and care for the children according to parents wishes.
- The leadership and management are effective and help support good teamwork and a comittment to continuous improvement of the service.

What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant weaknesses to this report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- Extending the use of shape and position in every day activities.
- Increasing the challenge in letter and sound recognition by removing the photo prompts.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Staff have improved the planning and evaluating of activities greatly. Plans are clear and easy to link to the early learning goals and identified learning intentions.

Links between the centre and other external professionals to support children with special educational needs has improved. The deputy makes links with the professionals as soon as a child has been referred to the centre and his needs are identified. This is an ongoing process.

Story time with the children are well supported by many props, both made by staff and bought. Props are used for stories and songs and also used as a way of communicating with children who are unable to talk.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development. They confidently express their needs and ideas and relate well to each other and adults. They are independent and confident to try new activities which helps to promote their learning.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making very good progress in communication, language and literacy. They are confident in communicating and engage in conversations with each other and adults. They enjoy looking at books and know how to handle them. They develop their reading skills well due to wide access to books and familiar words and symbols around the room. Children show confidence in writing and mark making and practice writing spontaneously.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's development in mathematical development is very good. Their counting skills are developing well and some can count reliably to 10 and a few can recognise numerals. The children learn to use numbers in practical activities and show an interest in matching and comparing.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. They have a range of opportunities to explore and learn about technology, cultures, the natural world and features of their environment. The children are taken on outings of local interest and have opportunities to explore living things. They learn about time through a variety of means including discussion about events in their lives, days of the week and an understanding of the nursery routine.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in physical development is very good. They move confidently and show competent balance, spatial awareness and coordination that is promoted through access to a diverse range of activities and equipment. They show confidence and increasing control and skill in the use of tools, objects, construction equipment and malleable materials.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children's progress in creative development is very good. They show free imaginative expression through a diverse range of planned activities such as art and crafts, musical instruments, singing, role play, puppets and dance.	
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:

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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.