



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 129059

DfES Number: 510004

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	30/06/2003
Inspector Name	Josephine Geoghegan

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Village Nursery
Setting Address	The Flat St Mary's Centre Ladywell Road SE13 7HU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Frances Mary Rodgers
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ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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 nursery is a privately run day nursery for children from two to five years. The nursery opened in 1991. It is situated in a first floor flat in the St. Mary's Centre which is located in Lewisham. The premises comprises of three playrooms, a reception/office area, kitchen and children's bathroom. Access to the nursery is via a metal staircase on the outside of the building. The nursery is open five days a week and operates between 8.45 am and 5.45 pm (50 weeks a year).

The nursery is registered provide full day care for no more than 20 children 2-5 years; of these, not more than 6 may be 2-3 years at any one time. The children belong to different groups: green, yellow, red and blue according to their age. At present there are eight funded three-year-olds and two funded four-year-olds. One of the funded three year olds receives speech therapy but does not have a statement. There are two other children attending with specific delays in speech and a child with hearing and speech impairment.

All of the children have English as their first language. The children attending come from mixed cultural and social backgrounds. They attend either full or part-time according to their parents needs. Currently the majority of the children attend full time.

The children are supported by six members of staff. The staff team is made up of a mixture of experienced and qualified staff. The manager has an NVQ level 3 in Care and Education. The staff all show a commitment to training and have attended a number of training courses since the last inspection.

The nursery is a member of the Preschool Learning Alliance (PSLA) and is supported by Lewisham Early Years Childcare Development Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The Village Day Nursery provides good quality childcare. A high ratio of staff work directly with children and most staff hold or are working towards level 3

qualifications. Children are grouped according to age, with frequent opportunities to mix with all other children and choose areas of play. The nursery provides a warm, welcoming and well organised environment with a wide range of toys and equipment that are easily accessible to children. The nursery has timetabled use of the well equipped outside play area and large hall for physical play and extra curricular activities of music and drama. A comprehensive range of policies and procedures are available and all required documents are in place, however improvements are needed regarding the recording of children's attendance and medication administered.

Staff take positive steps to ensure children are safe both inside and outside of the nursery. Good hygiene practises are promoted and children are developing good self care skills. Effective procedures are in place to support and meet the needs of children who have identified special needs. Meal times are sociable and children are able to develop self-help skills and independence.

The range and quality of activities that are offered to help children make progress in all areas of development is good. The day is structured to enable children to participate in group focused activities and work independently. Staff support children's learning, ask questions to make them think and give praise for their efforts. As a result of a consistent approach to the management of children and their behaviour the children well behaved, relate well to others and respond to the daily routine.

There is good partnership with parents and carers. They are provided with information about the setting, events taking place and their child's individual progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group was asked to improve documentation by maintaining a record of complaints, updating the operational plan with information of the quality audit and reviewing the child protection policy. The group was also asked to ensure the registration system recorded both staff and children and that information is recorded of the children's individual needs. The group was asked to improve safety by ensuring the children did not have access to dangerous substances or the barbeque and to conduct risk assessments.

The group has made good progress since the last inspection. It has updated and retained all documentation as required and sent copies to OFSTED. A risk assessment was conducted by a professional company. The safety issues were met by removing the barbeque and cleaning substance.

What is being done well?

- The balance and range of activities provided is good. Staff plan activities and use resources well to promote children's all round development.
- Children with special needs are valued. The staff provide additional support and work with outside agencies to make sure that the individual needs of

children with special needs are met.

- The nursery is well organised. Staff make good use of time to ensure children have opportunities to enjoy both inside and outside play and regular outings.
- Children are well behaved and staff manage children and their behaviour effectively.
- Children's learning is well supported by the high ratio of staff working directly with them.

What needs to be improved?

- the record of children's daily attendance to include the times of arrival and departure.
- the record of medication to include the parent's signature in acknowledgement that medication has been administered.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure the daily record of attendance shows the times of arrival and departure.
7	Ensure all parents sign the medication record in acknowledgement that medication has been administered.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Village Nursery offers high quality nursery education where children enjoy learning through a wide variety of interesting and stimulating activities. Effective teaching helps children make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The teaching is very good and the 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 needs is very good and is built around working closely with parents and outside agencies. Although there are no children currently attending with English as an additional language, there is an effective system in place to provide very good support.

Staff show positive and skilful management of children's behaviour and have high expectations of behaviour. They use a wide variety of strategies to encourage good behaviour including plenty of praise, encouragement and acting as good role models of positive behaviour.

The assessment of children's learning and is very good and staff use their observations to complete each child's assessment records. Leadership and management are very good. There is clear leadership and a well-structured management system. Management have a strong commitment to ongoing staff development and improving the nursery education. The partnership with parents and carers is very good. They are provided with a wide range of information about the nursery and activities provided for children. Children are cared for according to the wishes of parents and are encouraged to participate in the life of the nursery. 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. They are confident, independent, interested to learn and demonstrate good self care skills. They form good relationships with staff and each other.
- Staff have a clear understanding of the early learning goals and use this to 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 nursery and care for children according to parents' wishes.
- The leadership and management are effective and help support good teamwork and a commitment to continuous improvement of the service.

What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant weaknesses but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- extending the use of small group adult focus plans to outside activities;
- broaden the use of the nursery book lending scheme to include all age groups.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery has made very good improvements since the last inspection and no minor weaknesses in language and literacy remain. Group time for younger children has been adjusted to further focus on the needs of these children. Children with special needs are provided with individual language work and new special educational needs policy (SEN) has been developed and implemented. Further support for children with special educational needs is obtained Lewisham Council's Advisory and Support Team.

The presentation of book corner has been made more inviting to children and additional story props and other resources have been obtained to support language development. Children are also taken regularly to Lewisham Central Library for story time and to explore books.

Staff have attended training on developing children's language and literacy. They have also started to use adult focused activity plans for group story time.

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 promote their learning.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making very good progress in communication language and literacy. They are confident speakers and engage easily in conversations with each other and adults. They learn that print carries meaning and know how to handle books. They develop their reading skills well due to wide access to books and familiar words around the room. Children show confidence in writing and practise writing spontaneously.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in mathematical development is very good. Their counting skills are developing well and many can count reliably to 10, with a significant number able to recognise numerals 1-9. The children learn to use numbers in practical activities and show an understanding of shape number and size.

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 to parks, museums, farm, and staff bring in living things into the nursery. They learn about time through a variety of means including discussion about events in their lives, days of the week and understanding 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 co-ordination. This is promoted through access to a diverse range of activities and equipment. They show confidence, increasing control and skilful use of hand 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, stories, puppets, dance and so on.	
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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- extend the use of small group adult focus plans to outside activities;
- broaden the use of the nursery book lending scheme to include all age groups.

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.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.