



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 512419

DfES Number: 523605

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/12/2003  
Inspector Name Alison Margaret Walker

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care  
Setting Name Firthfields Early Years Centre + OOS Club  
Setting Address Conisborough Lane  
Garforth  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS25 2LR

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Leeds City Council

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Leeds City Council  
Address Firthfields Early Year Centre, Conisborough Lane  
Garforth  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS25 2LR

## 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

Firthfield Early Years Centre opened in 1989. It is owned by Leeds City Council. It operates in five nursery rooms. The centre is purpose built and is single storey. It is on a joint site with a day centre for the elderly. The centre is situated in Garforth, a residential suburb of Leeds. It serves families from the local community.

There are currently 60 children on role in the nursery and 27 in the school club. This includes 14 funded 3 year olds and two funded 4 year olds.

The centre opens five days a week all the year round. Sessions are from 8.00am to 18.00pm.

14 members of staff work with the children. 12 hold an early years qualification. The centre receives support from an advisory teacher, educational psychologist and a speech therapist.

### How good is the Day Care?

Firthfields Early Years Centre provides good quality care for children aged three months to eight years. Effective policies and procedures are in place, which give clear guidance to the centre's whole operational plan. Staff training is ongoing both in house and external.

The established staff team work well together. They are confident in their roles and are dedicated to ensuring the children receive high quality care and education. They receive ongoing support from the manager and assistant manager. There is a structured staff induction process which is successful in integrating new staff.

Children throughout the centre are confident and well stimulated. They receive constant support and reassurance from staff. There is an effective key worker system. A good selection of age appropriate quality play materials and equipment are readily available, which meet all the children's needs. Thoughtfully planned activities give children new experiences and help them develop in all areas of

learning. Equal opportunities is positively promoted in all areas. The children benefit from regular outdoor play.

The environment is warm and very welcoming to both children and parents. The premises are clean and well maintained throughout. Effective health and safety procedures are in place, however one minor weakness was identified in the completion of related documentation.

The children receive healthy and well balanced meals which are freshly cooked on the premises. Any specific dietary needs are catered for. Behaviour throughout the nursery is good. Children have clear boundaries and positive behaviour is encouraged by praise from the staff.

Friendly and trusting partnerships have been developed with parents. Successful communication links keep them informed on all aspects of their child's care on a regular basis.

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

The centre has produced evidence of public liability insurance.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff are well qualified and experienced. They have a friendly approach making everyone feel welcome. They have confidence and enthusiasm which has a positive impact on the children. Staff know the children well and meet their individual needs. Children enjoy the stimulating and happy environment. They are confident, settled and have a warm relationship with the staff and each other.
- A wide range of interesting activities and equipment inside and outdoors is provided, which promote children's learning and development.
- The school group have their own designated room which is well resourced with age appropriate toys, equipment and furniture.
- Good outdoor play space, ensures all children have the opportunity for regular outdoor play. There are two play areas, one specifically for children under two years. Both areas are organised imaginatively to give the children space to run freely and explore.
- A high standard of health and safety is maintained. Good hygiene practices are promoted with the children.
- Children have clear routines and there is a consistent approach to behaviour management. The children are considerate towards one another, take turns and share play equipment.
- Partnerships with parents are effective, they are kept well informed through good communication links, which include home visits before their child starts, access to children's profiles, social activities, newsletters and parents notice board.

**What needs to be improved?**

- system for getting parent/carers signature on accident forms.

**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
7	Devise a more effective procedure to ensure all parents and carers, of children brought in by voluntary transport, are notified of accidents.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Firthfields Early Years Centre offers very good quality education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff's very good knowledge of the foundation stage enables them to plan and assess children's progress effectively. All children's individual needs are well planned for. There are very good systems in place to support children with special educational needs. The key worker system is very effective, enabling staff to build up strong relationships with the children, and they know each child very well. Staff are constantly involved with children through both planned and spontaneous activities. They provide many opportunities to further extend their learning through asking challenging questions and giving good support. Excellent planning and organisation of resources means that children access a wide range of interesting activities and are able to make independent choices. The children's behaviour is managed effectively. Clear boundaries and agreed codes are set, and constantly reinforced by staff, in a positive manner.

Leadership and management is strong and well structured. Staff are highly motivated and have a shared understanding of good quality early years practice. The management are committed to developing each staff member's full potential, through a comprehensive training programme. All staff are very clear of their own roles and responsibilities.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are kept informed of the setting and their children's progress, and have opportunity to share what they know about their child. There is a little less information shared with parents regarding the curriculum and the educational activities being offered. Keyworker relationships are very strong, parents are confident in knowing that staff treat children as individuals.

### What is being done well?

- Staff give high priority to nurturing the children's personal, social and emotional development. As a result, children have a strong sense of belonging, and are secure enough to be able make very good progress in all other areas of learning.
- Children are given many opportunities to explore and investigate in the natural world around them. They express a great interest in new activities and are highly motivated to learn.
- The learning environment is made to be very attractive and exciting for children. There are many opportunities for children to express themselves through music, movement, and by using their imaginations.

- Practical everyday activities are used effectively, enabling children to begin using mathematical language for calculation, and to make many attempts to write for a purpose.
- The children are developing increasing independence skills. They are able to carry out simple tasks, and have a growing awareness of managing their own personal independence. Most children are able to make independent choices when accessing a range of activities.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- Point for consideration; The level of information shared with parents regarding the children's education and activities offered.

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

at the last inspection the nursery was asked to look at how the high standards of planning can be maintained, and ensure that they keep up with any changes regarding childcare and education.

The nursery is making very good progress in the planning and assessment of the children. The Foundation Stage, stepping stones are now used when assessing children's progress in each area of learning. This informs future planning effectively and helps staff to assess the next steps to take to help the children progress further.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children are very secure and confident. They relate well to adults and each other, and have a strong sense of belonging. Their concentration skills are very good in both group and individual activities. They listen well, and all are very keen and interested to learn. Most children are developing an increasing awareness of the agreed behaviour codes. They are becoming more independent, carrying out simple tasks and selecting resources independently.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Most children interact confidently with both adults and each other. Older children are developing good reading and writing skills. They are able to recognise letters and can write their names. All children make many attempts to write for a purpose. Older and more able children link sounds and letters well, and all children show great interest and enjoyment when listening to stories, and accessing information.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Older and more able children are confident at counting to ten and beyond. Most can recognise numerals to nine, and some can write them in number form. All are beginning to develop and use mathematical language to describe shape, size and position. Children are beginning to use language for calculating and comparing numbers, in both planned and practical activities.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to explore and investigate, and effectively learn about the natural world and their environment both indoors and out. All children are developing increasing skills in using information and technology equipment for a range of purposes. Most children are skilled at selecting tools and objects for designing and building, and use these competently. Younger children are able to select and use resources with support.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to move safely and confidently both indoors and outdoors. They demonstrate good control when using both large and small equipment, and have a good awareness of their space and each other. All children are developing a good sense of health and bodily awareness, and they enjoy using their bodies to express themselves through music and movement. They are confident in moving imaginatively, and find many ways to travel around, under and through equipment.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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All children can explore shape, colour and texture in a variety of ways. They express their ideas freely through music, stories, art and design. All children enjoy singing and some are able to make up their own songs. Imaginations are used well in both planned and spontaneous activities, where children can relive real and imagined experiences, involving adults and each other.

**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:*

- Point For consideration.
- Consider how parents may become more informed of the activities and planning for the foundation stage, and how they can further contribute, to their child's learning within the setting.

*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.*