



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127632

DfES Number: 516783

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/06/2004  
Inspector Name Vanessa Wood

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name St Thomas Pre-School  
Setting Address St Thomas RC Primary School  
South Park  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1EH

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name St Thomas' Parish Pre School 235468

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Thomas' Parish Pre School  
Address 12 Granville Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1ER

## 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. Thomas' Pre School opened in 1984.

It operates from the parish hall adjacent to St Thomas' RC Primary School in Sevenoaks. The pre school serves the local area.

There are currently 54 children from three to five years on roll. This includes 33 funded three year olds and 17 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Three children have special needs and the group supports one child who speaks English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 to 11:45 Monday to Friday and there are three afternoon sessions for older children from 12:45 to 15:15 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

One full time and six part time members of staff work with the children. Seven members of staff have early years qualifications.

The setting receives support from the St. Thomas' RC Primary School and from a Teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

St Thomas Pre School is acceptable and is of high quality overall. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a good understanding of the foundation stage and plan practical activities that challenge all children. They plan well balanced opportunities for children to practise previously acquired skills and help them to develop new ones. They explain things clearly and use questions that encourage children to think. There is a good balance of adult directed and child initiated activities in all areas. Staff manage children well and develop a good relationship with them. They are good role models and manage behaviour in a positive way. Children's behaviour is good.

Staff assess children's learning against the stepping stones and early learning goals and use this information to plan what children should do next. Activities are evaluated and well recorded.

The leadership and management of the pre school is very good. Staff understand their roles and responsibilities within the setting and work well together as a team. Staff are committed to providing a high standard of education and their practice is reviewed on a regular basis. Organisation and deployment of staff is good to ensure children are supported in their play.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are given regular information about the pre school through newsletters and all information is shared. Parents know their child's key worker and they are regularly invited to discuss their child's progress towards the early learning goals.

### What is being done well?

- Staff use good strategies to promote good behaviour and consideration for others. They give children clear instructions and help them understand the impact of unacceptable behaviour on others.
- Staff have a very good understanding of the foundation stage and the quality of teaching is good.
- The curriculum is well planned and provides challenge for all children. Staff promote children's learning by providing good practical activities. There is a good balance of adult directed and child initiated activities.
- Partnership with parents is strong. Staff foster a good relationship with parents and all information is shared.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the development of the outside area to include a nature area.

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

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection and all key issues about planning have been addressed well.

Planning documentation is clear and detailed and is implemented in ways that now include all staff. Adult directed activities and themes are integrated into both long and medium term plans and environmental planning is being addressed through a range of resources and prompt leads to ensure all areas of the curriculum are met.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's confidence and self esteem are built up by staff who are sensitive to their needs and know them well. They are encouraged to be independent in all areas of play. They choose between activities, select resources for themselves, and take care of their personal needs, such as dressing themselves and washing their hands. Children learn to share and take turns and to be polite and considerate to others.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak confidently and enjoy relating significant events to their friends and to staff. Children listen attentively to stories and delight in predictable endings. Children recognise their names and recognise the sounds of letters. Staff provide ample opportunities for children to explore writing for a purpose and to understand the meaning of print.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidently count to ten and beyond and to recognise numbers. Their understanding of numbers is reinforced as they take part in routine tasks such as working out the date and counting how many children are present. Children have the opportunity to develop and understanding of solving practical problem through daily routines.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to understand the world they live in through themed projects and visits from people from the local community. Planned activities help children notice changes that occur, for example when making dough for bread and using clay to make models of dinosaurs. Children have good opportunities to explore technology and are skilled at using the computer.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Outdoors, children are set challenges to develop their physical skills. They balance along beams, negotiate a rope ladder and climb small trees; manoeuvre tricycles around the playground and use bean bags and hoops with increasing skill. Staff are on hand to give support and encourage new skills such as helping children to jump and land safely. Children develop their fine motor skills through the use of a range of tools and construction materials.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children participate enthusiastically in a music session when a member of staff plays the guitar. They tap simple rhymes and learn to distinguish between loud and soft sounds. Children have the opportunity to draw freely and apply paint in different ways. Indoor role play activities are varied and interesting. Children use their imagination as they play in the shoe shop, trying on different shoes and measuring feet.

**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:
- develop the outside space to create a nature area where children can explore living things in their natural environment.

*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.*