



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 108404

DfES Number: 518148

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/04/2003
Inspector Name	Anne Jeanette Faithfull

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Fingers Montessori School
Setting Address	St. Stephens School Rooms, Vansittart Road Windsor Berkshire SL4 5EA

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Ms Suzanne Shaw
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## 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

Little Fingers Montessori School is privately owned and opened in January 1996.

It is situated on Vansittart Road off Maidenhead Road, Windsor.

There is easy access to the M4, and it is close to the centre of Windsor. The school is based in a large hall and has access to a kitchen.

The Montessori school accepts children from two and a half to five years old.

It is open weekdays from 9:15am to 12:15pm term time only for thirty seven weeks of the year.

The intake of children reflects the make-up of the local community.

The school employs five staff, all of whom have relevant early years qualifications. Staff also attend ongoing training.

The school are in receipt of funding for three and four year olds. At present eight funded three year olds and two funded four year olds attend the school

The setting supports children with special educational needs, and children for whom English is an additional language. The school is in receipt of foundation teacher support.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Little Fingers Montessori School offers a good quality provision which helps children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Children enjoy learning through a wide range of interesting activities and make very good progress in both mathematical and language skills.

Teaching is generally good with some very good aspects. Staff's sound knowledge of the early learning goals enables them to provide an interesting and appropriate range of practical activities. Children's communication skills are well developed. This is due to the skilful interactions of staff in engaging the children in conversations and fostering the children's self-esteem.

Staff effectively use everyday opportunities to reinforce mathematical development.

Resources provided promote learning in all areas. However, children have limited opportunities to select and explore resources independently. The principal is aware of the problem and has plans to tackle this through staff training.

A system for long term planning is in place and although staff record and evaluate children's activities, they do not use this information to record children's individual progress towards the early learning goals.

Although there are currently no children with special educational needs and English as an additional language, there are effective systems in place to provide good support.

Leadership and management are generally good. Staff work effectively as a team and attend ongoing training. Staff provide a stimulating environment which promotes children's learning.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good and contributes to the children's learning. Parents are given the opportunity and are encouraged to share information about their child. Parents are informed about the activities and routines via a range of media.

### What is being done well?

- Children have very good opportunities to explore shape, size, number and counting through everyday activities.
- Staff provide very good activities which encourage children's language and literacy skills.
- Children are being given the opportunity to communicate, expand their listening skills and vocabulary.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the use of planning and assessment, to identify where children are in their learning, and to move them on to the next stage.
- the opportunity to select and use resources independently.
- opportunities for children to move and explore the space around them.
- regular opportunities to explore cultures and beliefs.

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

The setting has made generally good improvement since the last inspection. Most issues have been addressed. Children's work is now kept and dated.

Resources have been purchased to support all areas of learning.

Long-term plans are now in place, however these do not reflect children's individual progress towards the early learning goals.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's progress in emotional development is generally good. Children have positive attitudes to learning, are confident in their interaction with staff, and can express themselves well. Relationships are good and children show consideration and support for others. Children respond appropriately to instructions from staff. There are limited opportunities for children to independently select resources, which stifles opportunities for them to develop their own ideas.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in communication language and literacy development is very good. Children are very confident speakers and demonstrate good communication and listening skills. Staff provide very good activities which appropriately foster children's language and literacy skills. Staff provide a range of good opportunities enabling children's early name and letter recognition. Staff effectively use open ended questions when talking to the children.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in mathematical development is very good. Staff make good use of mathematical language during all activities. Staff effectively reinforce numbers, shape, size and counting in everyday situations such as the excellent snack time. Children are very confident in using mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is generally good. Staff make effective use of circle time to draw on children's experience of past and present events in their lives. Children use the computer effectively with appropriate software. Children have good opportunities to question why things happen and how things work. Documents in planning show festivals are covered, but children are not given the opportunity to explore culture and beliefs on a day to day basis.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's progress in physical development is generally good. Staff provide opportunities and resources to encourage the children to develop control when using tools, such as glue sticks and pencils. Children have many opportunities to use malleable materials, such as playdoh and collage materials. There are insufficient opportunities for children to explore movement and space, either indoors or out, this limits full use of the large muscles.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children's progress in creative development is generally good. Children participate enthusiastically in singing activities, songs and rhymes. The planned topic for Easter gave children the opportunity to extend their knowledge of shape, form and dimension. Some art and craft activities are adult -led, resulting in a lack of opportunity for children to explore texture.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	

### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES**

- Develop a comprehensive recording system showing how children progress towards each of the Early Learning Goals.

*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.*