



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 136058

DfES Number: 563650

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/11/2004
Inspector Name Anne Legge

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Pooh Corner Day Nursery
Setting Address Bethesda Methodist Church
 Down Road, Winterbourne Down
 Bristol
 Avon
 BS36 1BN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Ruth Darby

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

Pooh Corner Day Nursery is a private nursery for children from birth to five years of age. It was established in 1997, and is located in a church hall in Winterbourne, South Gloucestershire. The nursery has use of a hall, kitchen, toilets and a separate baby room. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. Plans are in place to use another large room within the building.

The nursery is open 08.00 until 18.00 on weekdays, for 52 weeks a year, excluding Bank Holidays. There are currently 39 children on roll, including 10 funded three- and four-year-olds. The children who attend live locally or have parents who work in the Winterbourne area. Eight staff work with the children, five of whom have appropriate child care qualifications. Children are grouped according to age and maturity.

How good is the Day Care?

Pooh Corner Day Nursery provides good quality care for children. The nursery is well organised and staff work together as an effective team. Staff ratios are very good. The premises are attractive and interesting for children, with very good use of space and resources. All the required documentation is in place, although some lacks the necessary detail.

Safety is given a high priority and staff help children to identify potential dangers. All aspects of health and hygiene are good, and children learn appropriate hygiene routines. Staff provide nutritious meals and snacks, ensuring that all special dietary needs are met. They have a very good understanding of all equal opportunities issues and are committed to meeting children's individual and special needs. Staff have a clear understanding of all child protection issues and procedures.

Staff plan an excellent range of activities for children of all ages. They have a very good understanding of children's development and relate skilfully to them, effectively promoting their progress in all areas. They develop very warm relationships with children and manage their behaviour positively and sensitively.

Staff have established a very good partnership with parents. They provide detailed information about the nursery and about children's activities. There are excellent systems for regularly sharing information about children's progress, and for involving parents in the life of the nursery and in their child's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the nursery agreed to develop an operational plan and to devise a policy for outings. The operational plan is now complete and an appropriate outings policy is in place. The nursery is well organised, staff implement policies and procedures effectively and parents are well informed.

What is being done well?

- Children play and learn in a stimulating environment, where displays and resources are used imaginatively and space is used creatively, to offer a wide range of activities.
- Staff plan a very good variety of appropriate activities for all children. Music and sensory play are particularly well developed, throughout the nursery.
- Staff develop affectionate relationships with children and have a positive approach to the management of behaviour, using plenty of praise and encouragement.
- Safety standards are high. Staff carry out regular risk assessments of all areas and teach children to reduce risks.
- Staff have very good relationships with parents. They provide clear information about the nursery and all its activities, in newsletters and on the notice board. They issue regular progress reports and hold parents' evenings, to keep parents well-informed about their child's progress.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Staff plan an excellent range of activities for children of all ages. They make very good use of the available space, resources and displays of children's work, to provide an exciting environment for children's play and learning. (Standard 3)

What needs to be improved?

- the complaints procedure, to include telephone contact details of Ofsted
- records of medicines, to contain parental consent, exact times of administration and a parent's signature after administration
- records of staff arrival and departure times.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

Since April 2004, Ofsted has not received any complaints about this setting.

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
14	Update the following: records of medicines administered, to include parent signatures before and after administration; the complaints procedure, to include complete contact details of Ofsted; and staff attendance records, to include times of arrival and departure.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Pooh Corner Day Nursery provides high quality nursery education, and children make very good progress towards the early learning goals, in all areas of learning.

Teaching is very good. Staff have an excellent understanding of the foundation stage curriculum. They use questions and discussion effectively, developing children's understanding and skills in all activities. They plan very thoroughly for all areas of learning, using interesting topics, and offer a very good balance of free choice and adult-led activities. They observe children's achievements and carefully monitor their progress towards the early learning goals, using excellent systems to record this information. They use assessments to plan the next steps in children's learning, and to inform parents about their child's progress. They know the children very well and plan appropriate challenges or support for those of different ages or abilities. Staff manage behaviour with skill and sensitivity, and children behave very well. There are good systems in place to monitor and support children with special needs or with English as an additional language, although none currently attend.

Leadership and management are very good. The owner, manager and deputy manager work effectively together, leading a committed staff team. Staff are reflective in their practice and have good systems for monitoring the quality of education provided. There is a commitment to staff training and to improving quality. Future plans include extending pre-school provision within the nursery and joining a quality assurance scheme.

Staff have developed a very good partnership with parents. Parents receive detailed information about all topics and activities, including suggestions for ways to support their child's learning. Progress records are comprehensive and always available to parents. There are regular opportunities for parents to talk to staff and to receive written progress reports about their child.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan an extensive range of topics and activities for children, covering aspects of all areas of learning in each session, and the whole curriculum in a year. Children enjoy a rich variety of experiences, which are carefully planned to help them make excellent progress.
- Staff have a very clear understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and support children's learning effectively, using questions and discussion, and encouraging their efforts and ideas.
- Children become very creative and imaginative. They enjoy regular musical activities, including singing, dancing and playing instruments, and they develop good imaginations, through role play, small world play, sensory and craft activities.

- Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is very well developed, through effective use of the outdoor area and the local area, to observe the natural world and changes.
- Children make very good progress in their understanding of number, due to carefully planned activities and the use of many daily routines and tasks, for counting or comparing groups of objects.
- Staff work hard to involve parents in their child's learning. They provide good information, including excellent assessment records, twice-yearly reports and parents' evenings. They also invite parents to contribute to children's records and suggest activities to do at home.

What needs to be improved?

- the development of children's understanding of letter sounds, through a wide range of daily activities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made very good progress since the last inspection. At that inspection, the nursery was asked to improve planning systems, extending activities for more able children, to provide training for staff on the early learning goals and to co-ordinate record-keeping systems. They were also asked to ensure that procedures for children with special needs are in accordance with the current Code of Practice.

There has been a complete change of staff working with funded children, since the last inspection. Current staff have a very good understanding of the early learning goals and have developed excellent systems for keeping records about children's progress. They assess children's learning carefully and extend all activities appropriately for older or more able children. They now have good systems for monitoring children with special needs, which are consistent with the Code of Practice.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are very confident and enthusiastic learners. They concentrate very well at chosen and adult-led activities, and are able to organise their own play. They develop good relationships with each other and with staff, learning to take turns in games and to share toys and resources. They are independent in managing their personal care, such as putting on coats, and in choosing activities and resources. They behave very well, responding to the encouragement and praise which the staff offer.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children talk confidently in large and small groups. They use language well to describe events and to explain what they are doing, such as when planting bulbs. They enjoy stories and choose to share books, making good use of the book area. They make marks, begin to write their name, and use writing for different purposes, such as making lists. They develop very good hand-control. They learn about letter shapes and sounds in their name, but not always through a variety of daily activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children recite numbers in a wide variety of contexts and learn to match numbers to groups of objects, such as when counting conkers. They recognise numerals and discuss one more or less than a number. They develop their understanding effectively, by playing maths games and enjoying planned tasks, such as sorting and grouping. They use mathematical language in their play, such as when using money or comparing sizes or weights. They recognise and name two-dimensional shapes.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children explore a range of natural objects, such as fruit and nuts. They plant seeds and bulbs, using the outdoor area well, to learn about living things. They develop a sense of place, by discussing familiar places and walking in the local area. They learn about time, talking about events in their lives, dates and daily routines. They use a computer and other equipment, to develop their understanding of technology. They celebrate Christian and other festivals and try food from other lands.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently in the large outdoor area, and in small indoor spaces. They run, jump, skip and hop with good control, and move imaginatively to music. They develop excellent hand-control, using small equipment, such as scissors, trowels and pencils, with very good co-ordination. They pedal tricycles and use climbing and balancing equipment with increasing skill. They begin to understand their physical needs, discussing reasons for good hygiene and for dressing warmly in winter.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy regular musical experiences. They sing and move to music enthusiastically, and use instruments to explore rhythm and sounds. They develop lively imaginations in their role play and small world play, which is skilfully resourced and supported by adults. They use their senses to explore textures of natural objects and to investigate water, dough and sand. They paint and draw freely, and create models and collages, using a wide range of resources.

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:
- the development of children's understanding of letter sounds, through a wide range of daily activities.

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.