



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 500194

DfES Number: 534405

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/10/2004  
Inspector Name Susan, Helen Spencer

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Kidsunlimited Nurseries  
Setting Address St Marys Courtyard Nursery  
St. Marys Street, Hulme  
Manchester  
Lancashire  
M15 5WB

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name . Kidsunlimited Nurseries

## 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. Mary's Courtyard Nursery opened in March 2000. It is situated in inner city Manchester in a converted church school which is a listed building. The nursery is on two floors with a lift for people with disabilities. There are two baby rooms, two toddler rooms and a pre-school room.

The nursery offers 84 places across five rooms. There are currently 88 children on roll. This includes 13 funded three year olds and four funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Currently there are no children with special needs and the nursery supports eight children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 6:00pm and closes on bank holidays.

There are 26 full and part-time staff working with the children. There are 17 staff who have early years qualifications. There are a number of staff who are currently on training programmes. The nursery receive support from an advisor from the Early Years Development and Child Care Partnership.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Provision at Kidsunlimited St Mary's Courtyard is of good quality where children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. They make very good progress in the areas of knowledge and understanding of the world and creative development.

Teaching is generally good. Detailed plans fully reflect the early learning goals, but not all staff are secure in their understanding, resulting in some lost learning opportunities. Plans are clearly based on what children already know and can do. Overall this ensures that children are challenged at an appropriate level with the exception of some aspects of their physical development. Staff work well together and organise worthwhile activities that interest and appeal to children. They manage children's behaviour well overall, and are most effective when working with smaller groups. The timetable is well-organised to include all children. Resources are organised in a way that encourages children's free choice. Good priority is given to assessing and recording children's progress and achievement.

Leadership and management are generally good. Staff and managers meet regularly to discuss developments and plan for children's learning but there is some inconsistency in standards of planning to ensure even coverage of the early learning goals. Training needs are identified through regular appraisal. Training receives high priority. Managers work closely alongside staff to provide support and monitor standards, however new staff lack the support in developing strategies to manage larger groups.

Partnership with parents is very good, they receive good quality information about the nursery and their children's learning and play. Good quality displays help and inform parents about how play links to the early learning goals. The staff are warm and approachable and offer parents informative written and verbal feedback on children's progress and achievement.

### What is being done well?

- Staff make careful observations of children's play and learning. They record this information accurately and use it to plan for children's future learning by building upon what children already know and can do.
- Story times are well organised and enjoyed by children. Staff work well together to offer children a choice of story as well as using different story telling techniques that capture and maintain children's interest and enthusiasm.
- The children's weekly timetables are well organised. This ensures that all

children, including those who attend part-time or irregularly, can take a full part in the entire range of activities including gardening and cookery clubs, foreign language sessions, and yoga.

- Creative development is well provided for though an interesting range of material and activities from which children can choose freely.
- Children's understanding of their natural environment is promoted well. Gardening and cookery clubs provide children with valuable opportunities to have first hand experiences which are realistic. They are encouraged to observe and record some of the changes they observe and experience.

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

- the opportunities for children to use books carefully in a quiet and comfortable area of the nursery
- the planning for children to learn how to solve simple mathematical problems through routine activities
- the chances for children to engage in well supervised small group work
- the outdoor play experiences to meet the needs of older and more able children.

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

Not applicable.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children show confidence and self-assurance as they take part happily in a full range of activities. They have many opportunities to exercise their free choice. All children have well developed skills of personal independence and are willing helpers at tidy up times. They are polite and aware of the needs of others. Children's concentration and behaviour is best when children work and play in smaller groups which are more manageable.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children talk confidently and listen carefully to small group stories. The extension of children's vocabulary is prioritised in plans. Children enjoy stories which are well supported by exciting resources aimed at holding children's interest. Early reading skills are promoted well through good opportunities for children to recognise and write their names. Children enjoy books but there is no comfortable area where they can use books carefully.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children use numbers confidently overall. Younger children are developing confidence with numbers up to five whilst older more able children are beginning to work with number to ten. Resources and planned activities provide interesting chances for children to learn about shape, size and pattern. They learn about quantities and weight through gardening and cookery. However less use is made of routines to promote simple problem solving and children's ideas of more and less.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy the many opportunities they are offered to explore and investigate the natural environment. Cooking and gardening activities support this understanding well. They enjoy designing and constructing their own models using the good range of materials on offer. They are skilled and enthusiastic computer users. Well developed themes and activities promote their understanding of the passage of time. They learn more about other people and places through their French lessons.

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make good use of available space and move around the building safely and sensibly. Planned activities are provided both in and out of doors to develop their skills of kicking, throwing and aiming. They are learning about how their bodies work through healthy eating and by noting changes to their bodies as a result of exercise. There is some lack of challenge for children when outdoor equipment aimed at younger children is used and they do not have free access to the wide range of tools.

### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Very Good

Children have many opportunities to freely express their own ideas using a good range of creative media. Their own work is valued and features prominently as part of the nursery's good quality displays. They enjoy singing and do this tunefully. They explore sounds and make music sometimes devising their own instruments. They enjoy role play and act out their own scenarios using small world toys such as doll's houses. Planned activities encourage them to explore using all their senses.

**Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.**

## **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**

- organise children and staff in ways that facilitate effective small group work that children can enjoy
- review and improve provision for children to use books freely and carefully in a comfortable and quiet area of the nursery
- integrate simple mathematical problem solving activities into routine activities so that children can learn ideas about more and less in practical ways that hold meaning for them.

*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.*