



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY235557

DfES Number: 583281

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/01/2005
Inspector Name Alison Weaver

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Holy Cross Nursery
Setting Address Belmont Road
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1BP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name JHM Childcare

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name JHM Childcare
Address Ivydene, The Street
Framfield
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 5NT

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

Holy Cross Nursery School is privately run and opened in 2002. It operates from two large rooms and a hall area in a primary school building in the centre of Uckfield. It is close to local shops, a library, and parks. A maximum of 40 children may attend at any one time. The group opens 5 days a week for 48 weeks of the year. Sessions are from 07.00 until 18.30. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery also has access to other school play areas.

There are currently 74 children from 2 to under 8 years on roll. Of these 42 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The setting currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The setting employs nine staff. The owner/manager holds appropriate early years qualifications. Seven staff are working towards a recognised qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Holy Cross Nursery provides good quality care for children. The staff provide a calm, relaxed, and friendly environment where children feel secure and settled. The staff work well together as a team and are very supportive to one another. They are enthusiastic and show commitment to improving their childcare knowledge. The recruitment procedure is effective and ongoing training is encouraged.

The setting is well organised and effective use is made of the space. The emphasis is on using the environment to promote children's independence. Overall staff give adequate priority to ensuring children are safe at all times but risk assessments are not regularly carried out. Children develop a good understanding of general safety issues and hygiene practices. The group promotes healthy eating in the snack times. Many children bring their own packed lunches but currently these are not stored satisfactorily.

There is plenty of good quality equipment for the children to choose from. Children are involved in a broad range of activities which promote their individual development. They are interested in the activities and concentrate well. Staff actively seek ways to meet individual children's needs and promote equality of opportunity. The staff provide positive support and encouragement which results in children being well behaved. Staff are good role models and show that they value and respect the children's contributions. They are skilful in developing children's confidence and independence.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents receive a variety of helpful information about the setting and regular feedback about their child's progress. They are happy with the care provided and feel able to share any concerns with staff. All the required documentation is in place and kept appropriately.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff make the main room colourful and attractive by using a wide variety of interesting wall displays, posters, and pictures. Children's work is displayed well and they can also ask to have their pictures put up in the 'children's gallery'. This promotes children's self esteem as they know that their contributions are valued.
- There is an extensive range of safe and suitable toys and equipment which provide challenge and stimulation for the children. The storage of the resources is very effective at promoting children's independence as it enables them to make their own choices and initiate their own ideas and play. Staff also organise a range of other activities which the children enjoy.
- The group is formulating good working practices with regard to the partnership with parents who have English as an additional language. They work closely with these parents to ensure that children are being cared for appropriately and that they have all the background information that they require.
- Children are very happy and enjoy their time in the setting. They form good relationships with the staff. Children with special needs are given appropriate support and attention to ensure their needs are met.

What needs to be improved?

- the storage of packed lunches
- the carrying out of regular risk assessments
- the minimising of the potential hazard of the radiators and hot pipes.

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.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
6	Ensure that a thorough risk assessment is regularly carried out and that all hazards are minimised with regard to the heating system.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Holy Cross Nursery is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards all the early learning goals. They are confident, eager to learn, and participate enthusiastically in the wide range of interesting activities available.

The quality of teaching is very good and staff interact effectively with the children. The staff have a secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage. They provide a well balanced and stimulating curriculum which covers all areas of learning. Staff plan a variety of practical activities and understand what children can learn from them. There is an effective observation system in place which is used to assess the children's progress. Records of children's progress are currently used informally to plan the next steps for learning.

There is a broad range of resources available which staff use well to support children's learning. Staff build positive, caring relationships with the children. They know the individual children well. Staff are good role models and have high expectations of children's behaviour. Staff are very skilled at developing children's independence.

The leadership and management of the setting are very good. The staff team are keen and work closely together to ensure the curriculum is effective. They informally monitor and evaluate the provision. Ongoing training and staff development is actively encouraged by the owner.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are welcome in the group and spend time talking informally to staff about their children. Records of children's progress are regularly shared with parents. The opportunities for parents to continue children's learning at home are not fully promoted.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social, and emotional development is being actively encouraged and promoted. Staff provide valuable daily opportunities for children to initiate their own activities. The staff provide the support and interaction that is necessary to extend children's ideas and thinking without taking over the activity. This results in children being well motivated and keen to learn.
- The setting encourages children's enjoyment of music and sound. Children regularly help themselves to the musical instruments during the free play sessions. They enthusiastically sing with friends and make different rhythms with the sticks.
- Staff are good at developing language; they value what children say and do;

effectively reinforce language; and encourage children to listen to others. They use good questioning to encourage children to think about what they are doing and express their thoughts.

- High priority is given to children with special needs. Individual plans with achievable targets are created for them. Staff also plan focus activities for these children to help them make progress and develop.

What needs to be improved?

- further opportunities for parents to continue children's learning at home
- the use of assessments to inform plans, showing how activities can be adjusted to take into account children's next steps for learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's independence skills are developing very well. They are actively involved in their learning, making their own choices and decisions. They show good concentration skills. Children are confident, settled, and enjoy their time in the group. They relate well to each other and to adults, including group activities. They are well behaved, learning to share and take turns. They feel valued and learn to take a pride in their achievements.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are fluent and confident speakers and their vocabulary is regularly extended. They talk freely about their own lives and families, and express their thoughts well. They are learning to recognise and name some letters of the alphabet. The children make effective use of the numerous opportunities to practise mark making on a regular basis. Children listen and respond to stories, rhymes, and songs, joining in enthusiastically. They enjoy reading and looking at books.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to sort and match with ease. They can count confidently to 10 and well beyond. Some are able to recognise numerals up to 10. They enjoy joining in with number songs and rhymes. They use mathematical language correctly in everyday situations. Children are developing a good understanding of shape, size, and measurement. They are learning to use simple calculation in practical activities and through planned work.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy a wide range of materials and objects which they explore and investigate. They are learning about the world around them through everyday activities and planned topics. Children are able to recall past and present events in their own lives and those of others. They learn to use information technology. They demonstrate good design and making skills, and experience a variety of small tools.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and safely, showing good co-ordination and sense of space. They explore and enjoy movement in a variety of ways. They use a variety of tools and equipment, showing increasing skill and ability. Their fine motor skills are developing well. The children are developing an understanding of how to keep healthy through planned topics.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are encouraged to use their imagination in regular role play and drama activities. Daily art and craft activities are available which children enjoy using to express their own ideas. They have regular opportunities to respond using their senses. Children enjoy participating in singing and music activities. They have daily opportunities to explore music and sound during free play activities.

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 the following:
- further improve the planning by showing how activities can be adapted to take into account individual children's next steps for learning.

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.