



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 300850

DfES Number: 582686

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	10/05/2004
Inspector Name	Trudy Scott

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Fairmount Nursery
Setting Address	Sheffield Road Hackenthorpe Sheffield S12 4LT

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Fairmount Nursery Ltd 3437269
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Fairmount Nursery Ltd
Address	Sheffield Road Hackenthorpe Sheffield S12 4LT

## 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

Fairmount Nursery, Hackenthorpe, opened in 1995. It operates from a detached, two storey building with a fully enclosed outdoor play area. Children aged two to five years are accommodated on the ground floor and children under two years are on the upper floor. The nursery serves children and families living in the local and wider Sheffield area.

There are currently 89 children on roll. This includes 31 funded three year olds and 20 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a small number of children who speak English as an additional language. There are no children currently attending who have special needs.

The nursery opens on Monday to Friday, with the exception of public holidays. Times of opening are from 07:30 to 18:30.

Fifteen staff work with the children. Of these, 13 staff are qualified and two are working towards a relevant childcare qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and is currently participating in Sheffield Kitemark, a local quality assurance scheme.

### How good is the Day Care?

Fairmount Nursery, Hackenthorpe provides good quality care overall for children aged nought to five years.

Organisation and management of the nursery successfully promotes very good team work. Staff are well supported with effective induction and appraisal systems, regular team meetings and opportunities for relevant training. Good use is made of space, staff and other resources to ensure children are secure and well cared for in nursery. Children are grouped appropriately, according to age and stage of development. in four rooms. Transition between the groups is managed sensitively in consultation with parents. All relevant documentation is in place.

High standards of hygiene are maintained throughout the nursery. Staff consistently follow clear routines and procedures to protect children from illness and infection and actively promote good hygiene practise with the children. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks throughout the day although the lunch times arrangements do not fully promote independence.

Children enjoy a balanced range of interesting and stimulating activities which help them progress in all areas. Relationships between staff and children are very good. Staff show interest in what the children do and say the children and communicate effectively with them in various ways. They respond sensitively to children's individual needs, helping them feel confident and happy. The consistent approach to behaviour management ensures children's behaviour is very good.

Parents and children receive a warm welcome in nursery. Good quality information is provided for parents in a variety of ways. Systems in place for exchanging information are successful in ensuring children are cared for according to parents' wishes.

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

Not applicable

#### **What is being done well?**

- Team work is very good. Effective induction and appraisal systems ensure staff are clear of their roles and responsibilities. They have regular opportunities to contribute their ideas in team meetings and access relevant training. This helps keep staff enthusiastic and motivated.
- Clear health and hygiene procedures are in place and are consistently followed by staff. These include daily cleaning routines and rotas for sterilising toys and equipment, procedures for nappy changing and the serving of food. Children are encouraged to manage personal hygiene independently.
- Relationships between staff and children are very good. Children talk and listen to children, ask questions and offer suggestions to prompt their thinking. They use language, facial expression, gestures and eye contact to communicate effectively.
- Behaviour of the children is very good. Effective strategies in place include clear boundaries and discussions with children regarding unacceptable behaviour. Praise and encouragement is used well by staff to value good behaviour.
- Good quality information is provided for parents in a variety of ways. Parents have free access to policies and receive information about policy changes by letter. Attractive displays of children's work also show information about what the children are doing and learning. Additionally they have daily discussions with staff about their children.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the lunch time arrangements to promote more choice and independence for children.

**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
8	Organise lunch time to give children more choice and independence.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Fairmount Nursery, Hackenthorpe, provides a happy and supportive environment where children develop a positive attitude to learning. This contributes to the very good progress they make in all six areas of learning..

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have secure knowledge of the early learning goals and use this to provide a relevant, interesting curriculum. Children learn through a balance of adult led and self-initiated activities, indoors and outdoors. Staff regularly observe children in their free play which enables them to respond to individual learning needs and provide appropriate challenge although the information is not yet included in assessment records. The environment is well organised to enable children to access resources independently and to allow them sufficient time to concentrate, persevere and develop their own ideas. The priority given to personal, social and emotional development underpins children's learning in other areas. Staff engage effectively with children to help them develop very good communication skills and to become aware of number problems. A good collection of stimulating resources and interesting activities are provided in most areas and are successful in helping children explore and investigate the natural world.

Leadership and management is very good. The management team provides effective support for staff and ensures they have a consistent approach to their work. Staff have regular opportunities to access relevant training and meet with colleagues and other professionals. This enables them to develop, review and evaluate their work practise and ensures the continuing development of the educational provision.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are well informed about what their children are doing and learning in the nursery. They are confident in approaching staff and sharing information about their children which enables staff to builds successfully on children's previous experiences.

### What is being done well?

- The very good provision for children's personal, social and emotional development ensures children develop enthusiasm for knowledge and confidence in their ability. This underpins their learning in the other curriculum areas.
- The environment is well planned and organised. Children choose to play inside or outside, and select their own activities and resources. They know they can return to their interests during the day which gives them the freedom to explore and try other experiences.
- Staff successfully engage with children to help them develop very good communication skills. They speak clearly to children, encourage children to contribute in group times in verbal and non verbal ways and plan interesting

activities, such as a sound lotto game. This contributes to the very good support for children who speak English as an additional language.

- A good collection of stimulating resources and interesting activities are provided. Children particularly enjoy finding out about the natural world as they search books for information about flowers and plants, play with the realistic collection of bugs and help 'grow' butterflies in the caterpillar farm.
- The management team has a strong commitment to continuous improvement. This is reflected in the very good progress made on the previous key issues, the on-going training plan and the co-operative working with other professionals, such as the community teacher.
- Effective methods for enabling parents to share what they know about their children include flexible settling in arrangements, informal discussions with staff and opportunities to see and contribute to children's records of children's progress. Parents and staff work together to value children's achievements, for example work children do at home is displayed in nursery.

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

- the opportunities for children to use an increasing range of tools and techniques in design and making
- the recording of the next steps in children's learning as they are identified.

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

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. The staff have introduced a number of effective measures to improve the planning and the organisation of the environment.

The planning now includes many opportunities for children to develop their imagination through music. Children enjoy listening to music from different cultures and move imaginatively in music and movement sessions, for example they respond to the music as they use scarves and dance around pretending to be butterflies.

Children have many good opportunities to learn about the world, for example they go for walks in the local community and learn about the lives of others through visitors to the nursery such as fire fighters and the milkman. Photographs are used effectively to help children remember their experiences.

The nursery environment is well organised, indoors and outdoors, to enable children to access resources and activities independently. The availability of mark making materials and imaginative and creative resources throughout the day successfully promotes children's creative development and their skills as writers.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are interested, excited and motivated in nursery. They use the whole environment confidently, moving freely between inside and outside, and selecting activities from the range available. They often persevere and complete self-chosen tasks. Behaviour is very good and reflects the high expectations of staff. Children co-operate, share and take turns. They are learning successfully to care for themselves and the environment, for example they help tidy away and care for nursery pets.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are developing very good speaking and listening skills. They use language well for many purposes, such as describing, initiating conversations and remembering past events. They participate actively in familiar rhymes and are learning to link sounds with letters. Children enjoy a wide range of books and use books effectively to find information, for example to find the names of flowers growing outside. They have many good opportunities to attempt writing for different purposes.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children regularly count in daily activities, many count reliably beyond 10. Their understanding of number is reinforced in routine tasks such as working out the date. They solve simple problems in free play, for example how many can play in the home corner, and attempt more complex problems, including simple addition and subtraction, in focused activities. They are developing good awareness of size, space, shape and measure in regular activities such as sand, construction and dressing dolls.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have very good opportunities to explore and investigate when using natural materials, baking and observing the natural world. They use tools and materials effectively to design and make their ideas, although the range of tools is not extensive. They are developing a sense of time and frequently discuss the past when looking at photographs and in group time. They are learning successfully about their own community and the wider world in planned topics, visits and visitors to nursery.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move confidently and safely inside and outside the nursery, successfully negotiating space and obstacles. They are set appropriate challenges outside when they move around on different levels and surfaces and practise controlling their bodies, for example by balancing on one leg. Children are developing an awareness of healthy practise and are moving towards independence in managing their personal needs. They engage in many activities to successfully develop good hand eye co-ordination.

## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore colour in a variety of ways, such as colour mixing, printing and painting. They use a range of different media and materials effectively to develop and express their ideas. They enjoy music sessions and sometimes sing spontaneously in their play. They play imaginatively and co-operatively when using small world and role play resources. Children show enthusiasm in many ways, for example they jump up and down and laugh when excited and whisper and listen in group time.

**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 recording of the next steps in children's learning as they are identified
- the opportunities for children to use an increasing range of tools and techniques in design and making.

*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.*