



**Office for Standards
in Education**

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127664

DfES Number: 513032

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 24/03/2004
Inspector Name Margaret, Ann Sandfield

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Sunshine and Showers I
Setting Address 16 Jefferstone Lane
 St. Marys Bay
 Romney Marsh
 Kent
 TN29 0SW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Jacqueline Bayford

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

Sunshine & Showers I Nursery opened in 1996.

It operates from five rooms of a single story property in the village of Dymchurch. The nursery serves the local community and surrounding villages.

There are currently 46 children on roll. This includes 46 funded three and four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 to 18:00.

There are eight full time staff and two part time lunch cover staff. Six staff are qualified to NVQ level 2 or 3 and two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Staff have a very good understanding of the early learning goals, enabling effective delivery of a well planned educational and play experience. It is imaginatively resourced and enables children to develop in all six areas of learning.

Leadership and management is very good. The staff team appear very well motivated, which impacts positively on children's play experiences and ensures they are happy, confident, interested, enthusiastic and involved in their play.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff place a great deal of emphasis on working in partnership with parents, actively seeking parents views and encouraging them to share knowledge of their children's needs. They provide valuable information about the provision and the experiences children are receiving. Parental questionnaires confirm parents are highly satisfied with the care and education their children are receiving.

What is being done well?

- Children sit and listen well in small group activities; interested, excited and motivated, taking turns to speak, expressing views and relating well to each other and to the staff.
- Children choosing confidently from available resources and moving freely from one activity to another.
- Staff have clear boundaries for behaviour. They give clear and consistent explanations to the children about what is expected of them and children are constantly praised and encouraged.
- More able children are provided with good opportunities to develop personal independence.
- Children are showing an understanding of the elements of stories and use story language. They use books for enjoyment and to locate information.
- Staff give very good support in developing children's spoken language, actively encouraging responses and extending language throughout the session. They use good questioning techniques, which encouraged children to communicate their thoughts and ideas both in large and small group work.
- Children have excellent opportunities to say, recognise and use numbers, providing very good practical opportunities for children to develop an understanding of addition and subtraction and to use mathematical ideas and methods to solve problems.

- Children are given many very good opportunities to explore and talk about objects and materials using all senses.
- Children are given many very good opportunities to learn about their environment and identify features in the place they live and the natural world, talk about these features and compare similarities, differences patterns.
- Children move around confidently, imaginatively and safely and with control and co-ordination throughout the session.
- Staff provide children with good opportunities to understand how to take care of themselves.
- Staff provide children with many good experiences to explore a wide range of materials and tools, expressing and communicating their ideas confidently.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to explore their understanding of certain types of behaviour
- the re-organisation of the outdoor play area
- the use of number labels in the outdoor play area.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress since the last inspection has been very good. The group have completed the following:-

The re-organisation of premises to provide continuity for children and less disruption.

An increase in outdoor play opportunities and resources.

The introduction of an open door policy.

An improved book area, including comfortable seating and a wider range of books including books portraying people from different cultures in a positive manner.

The increased use of displays including number and word labels.

Produced clear written plans identifying learning outcomes.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Staff build on children's confidence and self-esteem by being sensitive to their needs and knowing them well. As a result children demonstrate high levels of concentration, sit well and are interested, enthusiastic and are entirely involved in their learning. Children choose between activities, selecting resources for themselves. Children are developing an awareness of their own and others needs, views and feelings. However children missed opportunities to learn good manners by example.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children receive a high quality adult interaction. Staff give very good support in developing children's spoken language, taking every opportunity to extend their language through good questioning techniques. As a result children are communicating their thoughts and feelings clearly and exploring new ideas confidently. They are beginning to recognise letters, write their name and understand that print can be used for a wide variety of reasons.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children demonstrate a sound knowledge of counting; saying, recognising and using numbers in familiar context. They receive imaginative and effective practical opportunities to develop an understanding of addition and subtraction, comparing two groups of objects. As a result children are starting to use mathematical language to describe and compare shape, position, size and quantity. They have meaningful opportunities to use mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children extend their understanding in this area through a stimulating range of practical activities. They talk confidently and enthusiastically about events in their own lives and those of others. There are extremely good opportunities to learn about their environment and identify features in the place they live and the natural world. As a result children talk confidently about these features and compare similarities, differences patterns.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are provided with a wide variety of tools and a stimulating range of equipment and as a result they are developing their manipulative skills well. They move around confidently, imaginatively and safely, in control and co-ordination, travelling around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment throughout the sessions. Children are given opportunities to recognise the importance of staying healthy.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children experience a good range of media and materials whereby they confidently explore and investigate texture, shape and colour, using all senses. They express and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings by using a widening range of materials, tools and through imaginative play. Children sing songs and repeat from memory action rhymes with a great deal of enjoyment and enthusiasm.

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:

- increase opportunities for children to explore their understanding of unwanted behaviour
- reorganise and develop the outdoor play area.

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.