



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 307150

DfES Number: 510672

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	24/08/2004
Inspector Name	Christine Myerscough

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Happy Day Nursery
Setting Address	Heath Road Davenport, Stockport Cheshire SK2 6JJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Susan Knowles
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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

Happy Day Nursery was established over 35 years ago and re-registered in 1992. It operates from 5 rooms in a single storey, purpose built premises in Davenport, Stockport. The nursery serves children from a wide area.

There are currently 88 children from birth to 4 years on roll. This includes 16 funded 3-year-olds and 11 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are no children attending with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens 5 days a week all year round from 07:30 until 18:15.

There are 20 part-time and full-time staff who work with the children, 18 of whom have qualifications in early years. The manager and proprietor are supernumerary. The nursery receives support from an advisory teacher from the local education authority.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Happy Day Nursery provides high-quality nursery education overall which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff are confident, enthusiastic and interact well with the children. They have a secure knowledge of the early learning goals and know the children very well which enables them to support and promote their learning effectively across the curriculum. Children benefit from a happy, relaxed atmosphere and a well-organised and resourced learning environment which encourages and stimulates their interest to learn. Plans reflect a varied programme of activities, although do not always show how activities are adapted to meet the needs of the differing ages and ability levels of the children. Staff are sensitive to children's individual needs, act as very good role models, and the frequent use of praise promotes good behaviour and develops children's confidence and self-esteem.

The leadership and management of the nursery are very good. There is good communication across the nursery. Staff are deployed effectively to support children's learning and are clear about their roles and responsibilities. There is a strong commitment to ongoing staff development through regular training and staff work closely with an advisory teacher to develop the educational provision. The nursery education is monitored and evaluated well using rigorous systems that include all staff.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are provided with good quality information about the nursery and the Foundation Stage. There is detailed informative assessment of children's attainment and progress towards the early learning goals which is shared with parents. Parents speak positively about the nursery and are very pleased with their children's progress.

What is being done well?

- Staff offer children a wealth of well-resourced and planned activities and experiences in a stimulating well-organised learning environment. This contributes to children being active, independent and successful learners.
- Staff place strong emphasis on helping children to learn about letters and sounds through daily fun activities. This contributes to children's enthusiasm and very good progress in this area.
- Children's creativity is very well fostered. Children use a rich range of materials and other resources to express their ideas and feelings in art, design, music and role-play. Staff clearly value children's work which is displayed around the nursery.

- Strong leadership, management and team work lead to a harmonious and effective learning environment and very good standards. It is strongly supported by clear policies, procedures and operational systems that are well known to staff and clearly reflected in practice.
- Partnership with parents is very good. Staff form successful relationships with parents who speak confidently and highly of the nursery. Records of children's progress in all areas of learning are of a high standard and parents are encouraged to contribute to assessments to share their views.

What needs to be improved?

- the planning to reflect how activities are adapted to meet the differing age and ability levels of the children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. Staff have worked together and reviewed how to extend children's learning in science, which was raised as a point for consideration in the previous inspection report.

Staff now provide a wider programme of interesting science activities linked to topic work. Additional resources have also been purchased to challenge and extend children's thinking and learning in this area, promoting their enthusiasm and enjoyment for such activities.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are very happy and secure and form close relationships with staff and peers. They busily and purposefully engage in play in a stimulating learning environment that successfully motivates them to learn. Children are well behaved. They wait patiently as they line-up to take turns on the bikes and are actively involved in tidying away resources. Children are developing their independence skills well as they serve their lunch and confidently attend to their own personal hygiene.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children communicate effectively using a wide vocabulary. They listen well to stories and join in discussions. Children successfully link many sounds to words and letters in the alphabet and show enthusiasm for such activities. An environment that is rich in print helps children recognise letters and words and to understand print carries meaning. Children demonstrate very good pencil control and are beginning to form recognisable letters as they write their names and signs around the nursery.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Daily activities at circle-time effectively promote children's mathematical thinking. Children are confident counters and recognise many numerals. They are developing an understanding of measure and enjoy making comparisons as they measure their plants and themselves with great enthusiasm and interest. Children enjoy singing number rhymes such as 'Five Little Ducks' helping them to calculate and solve number problems. They are able to sort and match successfully by colour, shape and quantity.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy many well planned and interesting activities which stimulate their curiosity and lively interest in the world and show a good awareness of change. They recall past events well as they enthusiastically talk about attending one another's birthday parties. Children freely access the computer independently and take great delight in playing their favourite games. They are able to build and construct purposefully from a range of kits as they work together on their Olympic stadium.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are confident and competent climbers and use alternative ways to get speedily to the top of the frame. They eagerly practise and refine their skills as they throw hoops onto cones, balance bean bags on their heads and ride their bikes with skill and good negotiation around the cycle path during the mini-Olympic games. Staff give encouragement and support to try new experiences and children are proud of their achievements. Through daily routines children are aware of healthy practices.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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A wide range of activities allows children to express their creativity. Children confidently sing from a repertoire of songs and choose favourites often. They enthusiastically explore musical instruments and are eager to learn how sounds can be changed. Children make good use of the role-play area and small world toys to make up stories. They become absorbed using creative media and take pride in perfecting their work, producing detailed drawings which show their skill in representational art.

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 improving the following:
- ensure short-term plans reflect how activities are adapted to meet the needs of the differing age and ability levels of the children.

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.