

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 507806

DfES Number: 521870

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/03/2004

Inspector Name Carol, Patricia Willett

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care

Setting Name Fleet Methodist Church Pre-School

Setting Address Reading Road South

Fleet

Hampshire GU52 7TF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Fleet Methodist Church Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Fleet Methodist Church Pre-School

Address Reading Road South

Fleet

Hampshire GU52 7TF

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

Fleet Methodist Preschool first opened in 1974. It is situated in the Methodist Hall in Fleet. The group mainly use the Minor Hall but are able to access the main hall and the lounge when not in use by other organisations. Kitchen and toilet facilities are also available. The car park is used for outdoor play.

Children generally attend from the age of two years nine months to under five years. The group are open five days a week offering sessional care each morning and four afternoons with children bringing packed lunches for the afternoon sessions.

The group receive funding for thirty-nine three year olds and three four year olds. There are currently forty-two children on roll and the children attend a variety of sessions each week.

Seven members of staff work regularly with the children. Four have relevant qualifications to NVQ III and two to NVQ II. The group receive support from the local Early Years partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision at Fleet Methodist Church Preschool is acceptable and of good quality. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The children are making very good progress in the area of personal, social and emotional development and knowledge and understanding of the world.

Teaching is generally good. Staff are kind and caring, relating well to the children. They act as good role models praising and encouraging the children. Staff mostly use good questioning techniques to extend the children's thinking and learning. Some have good listening skills and encourage the children to listen well especially at circle time when they recall the morning activities. They effectively use time, space and resources.

Leadership and management is generally good. The supervisor and staff team are committed to improving their knowledge and qualifications. They are clear about their roles and responsibilities, working well as a team to provide a caring, supportive, lively environment for the children. The church management committee have limited knowledge and understanding of the running of the preschool.

Partnership with parents is very good. There is a good provision of information about the preschool via an informative prospectus and newsletters. Staff build positive relationships with parents and share information daily which enables the children's needs to be met. Parents receive regular feedback, view their children's achievement records and contribute to planning their child's next steps to the early learning goals.

What is being done well?

- Children have very good opportunities to explore the local environment with trips on the train, to the bakery, police station and supermarket. They have a garden plot at the local school, which they use to grow flowers.
- Children are confident to talk to adults and can express their needs and ideas. They can share and take turns.
- Children's mathematic skills are developing well. They can count to ten recognising the numbers. Staff reinforce counting throughout the session. Children know basic shapes and their properties.
- Staff use good teaching strategies to extend children's thinking. They have good listening skills.
- Parents receive regular feedback on their children's achievement and contribute to planning their child's next steps to the early learning goals.

What needs to be improved?

- children's independence skills could be further developed at snack time and by the ability to freely access some resources
- opportunities for children to use large equipment for climbing and balancing more often and discuss changes in their body when they are active
- the knowledge and understanding of the church management committee of the running of the preschool and their responsibilities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There has been generally good progress since the last inspection where staff had to identify how many children should be involved at one time in adult led activities. There has been a column added to planning sheets to show grouping of children for activities. This ensures there are not too many children trying to do some activities for example when cooking where children need more support and staff are sufficiently prepared.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Most children are confident to talk to adults and can express their needs and ideas. They talk about their homes and own cultures. Children are co-operative and can share and take turns. Children could develop independence skills further at snack time and by being able to freely access some resources.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children sit and listen well in group times. Staff demonstrate and encourage good listening skills at circle time when recalling the mornings session. Children hold and handle books well and enjoy looking at them. They are beginning to write recognisable letters with some children writing their names on their work. Staff miss opportunities to show the direction of print and talk about the authors of the book at story time.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children can count to ten recognising the numbers. Staff reinforce counting throughout the session. Children know basic shapes and their properties knowing that a triangle has three sides and a square four. They recognise the shapes with their names on. Children develop addition and subtraction concepts through singing number songs.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have very good opportunities to explore the local environment. They go on a train trip and visit Fleet pond. They have trips to the police station, the supermarket and bakery. They have a garden plot at the local school, which they use to grow flowers. Many children have good mouse skills enjoying the ability to move to the next screen. Children explore and investigate making bread rolls, growing flowers and hatching butterflies.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children move safely and confidently in the environment, skilfully avoiding each other in music and movement where they slither like snakes and jump like kangaroos. They become planets, stars and rockets. Children are developing good manipulative skills using a variety of tools including scissors, pencils, rollers and cutters with increasing dexterity. They manipulate jigsaw pieces well. Children need to use large equipment for climbing and balancing more and discuss body changes when active.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children explore texture and colour through a variety of activities. They make collages and models with recycled materials. They explore shaving foam and cornflour using their senses and expressing feelings. Children enjoy stories responding and joining in with enthusiasm. Children explore sound through the lotto game and musical instruments. Children need more opportunities to use imagination and play out roles.

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

- ensure the church management committee are aware of the operation of the preschool and their responsibilities
- develop children's independence skills at snack time and their ability to freely access some resources
- plan more opportunities for children to use large equipment for climbing and balancing and discuss changes in their body when they are active.

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.