



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 319181

DfES Number: 535650

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 28/05/2004 |
| Inspector Name | Gianna Ulyatt |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Full Day Care |
| Setting Name | Free Spirits Nursery |
| Setting Address | Freeman Road High Heaton Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE7 7DN |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | Free Spirits Nursery |
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

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| Name | Free Spirits Nursery |
| Address | Freeman Road High Heaton Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE7 7DN |

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

Free Spirits Nursery opened in 1999. It is owned and managed by Newcastle upon Tyne Hospital's National Health Service Trust and is located in pre-fabricated modules within the Hospital complex in the High Heaton area of Newcastle.

The nursery has six separate rooms and serves the staff of the National Health Service Trust. There are currently 149 children from 0-5 years on roll. This includes 30 funded 3 and 4 year olds. The nursery offers support to children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07.00 until 18.30. There are 27 full time staff that work with the children, most of whom have an early years qualification. The setting receives support 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?

Children make very good progress in all six areas of learning. They have a good range of activities from which to choose. They learn a good range of vocabulary and show good levels of responsibility in all they do. They have good opportunities to investigate and explore and develop a good understanding of number. They enjoy creative activities and have daily physical sessions outdoors. Teaching is very good. Staff are knowledgeable and very caring role models who clearly enjoy working with young children. They know children learn best through play and interact very well with children extending their ideas, their vocabulary and enhancing their learning opportunities. Planning is well focused for indoor activities through well-chosen topics. Planning for outdoors is activity based which means the learning objective is less clear. There are also missed opportunities to include aspects of the six areas of learning through outdoor play and to use resources for this end. Staff give good support to children who have special needs, so they are fully included in all activities. Staff have high expectations for behaviour and children respond very well. They plan the daily routine well. Staff make good use of assessments and base activities on what children need to learn next. Leadership and management is very good and there is a strong management team. The nursery fulfils its vision to provide high quality care and education for all children. The management is clear about strengths and developmental points through annual appraisals. Staff are supported to attend relevant training courses and are well motivated towards continuous improvement. Team building is particularly strong. The partnership with parents is very good. There is a good range of high quality information. Parents are well informed each day about their child and have termly formal meetings. They are encouraged to support at home through well written information on each topic.

What is being done well?

- Teaching is very good in all six areas because of the very good interaction by staff. Children have a good range of activities from which to choose. They have good opportunities to investigate and explore and. They enjoy creative activities and have daily physical sessions outdoors.
- There are very good relationships between staff and children.
- There are very good speaking and listening opportunities. Children learn a good range of vocabulary and show good levels of responsibility in all they do.
- Mathematical concepts are taught well through regular, daily routines, the children develop a good understanding of number
- Leadership and management is very good.
- The partnership with parents is very good and supports children's learning well.

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| What needs to be improved? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● the curriculum planning and use of resources outdoors. |

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| What has improved since the last inspection? |
| <p>There has been very good improvement since the last inspection. The nursery was required to improve assessment procedures to monitor children's progress towards the early learning goals and to improve problem solving opportunities in mathematical development. The setting has addressed both issues through a clear action plan. The setting has well established assessment procedures in place. These are on-going throughout the day as children play and learn. Achievement is recorded in each child's file and clearly shows progress towards the early learning goals. Throughout the daily routines staff give good emphasis to calculation through practical and meaningful activities. Children calculate the number of instruments missing in the music session, for example. They look in each area to see how many children are there already and calculate whether there will be a place for them. They set the table and check that the cutlery matches.</p> |

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are well-behaved and motivated to learn. They are confident and have established good friendships. They learn to share and take turns. They take on responsibility and are developing independence when making choices about activities they wish to do and about food and drink they like. They are aware of different cultures and show good respect for others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

There is good emphasis on early phonics and children link letters to sounds. There are particularly good opportunities for speaking and listening and children have a good vocabulary. The majority speak in good clear sentences. Children enjoy browsing through books. They handle them well. They recognise sounds in words and some can read the names of their friends. There are good opportunities to write through play. Children develop their fine motor skills through a range of activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children develop a very good awareness of calculating and of number for counting and recognition. The majority know numbers to nine. Mathematical development is included in all daily routines so children's understanding is secure. All are well challenged. Children understand about shape, space and measurement through practical activities. There are some missed opportunities to include mathematics in outdoor play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

There are good opportunities to investigate and explore through planned activities. Children learn to make models as they play. They use the computer and games support learning in mathematics and early literacy. Children are clear about recent past and future events in their lives. They learn about jobs people do through visitors to the nursery. Through talk with staff they discuss places they visit on holiday. They learn about cultural events as they occur during the year.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use large equipment well and are expressive in their play. They have daily opportunities to play outside. They learn to run vigorously, and negotiate holes and boundaries when using the apparatus. They are aware of health issues and know when to wash hands or when to cover their head from the sun. They handle tools with competence and show good co-ordination when using apparatus. They balance and climb with competence and use small skills equipment with increasing skill.

| CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT | |
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| Judgement: | Very Good |
| Children make very good progress. They have plenty of opportunities to express their ideas through art. They paint and draw with enthusiasm. Children use instruments and sing songs with true enjoyment. They develop their imagination well and dress up and pretend to be many different characters. They express their feelings freely and are confident to perform for the whole group. | |
| 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 were no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to the following;
- develop the planning for outdoor play so that aspects of all six areas of learning are included.

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.