



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113574

DfES Number: 549042

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/10/2004
Inspector Name Gillian Cubitt

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name The Caterpillar Club
Setting Address Leechpool Primary School
Leechpool Lane
Horsham
West Sussex
RH13 6AG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Caterpillar Club

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Caterpillar Club
Address Leechpool School
Horsham
West Sussex

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

The Caterpillar Club opened in January 2000. It operates from a pre-fabricated building within the grounds of Leechpool County Primary School in Horsham. It is independent although has close liaison with the school and is run by the overall manager with the support of a parent committee. The group mainly serves families from the local area.

There are currently 82 children aged from 2 years to 8 years on the roll. This includes 21 funded 3-year-olds and 4 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and there are four children on roll who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five mornings and afternoons each week during term times from 09:00 until 12:00 and 12:30 to 15:00 Monday to Friday. There is also an after school club that operates from 15:00 to 18:00 each weekday evening.

There is 1 full-time member of staff and 5 part-time staff. Two staff have an early years qualification to NVQ level 2 or 3 and four members are currently working towards relevant qualifications. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and from Sure Start.

How good is the Day Care?

The Caterpillar Club provides good care for children aged from two to eight years of age.

The manager is experienced and qualified and is pro-active in maintaining relevant training. The staff work well as a team to ensure the smooth running of the nursery. Staff meet children's needs effectively through an effective key worker system. The inside and outside play areas are well organised enabling children to make good use of equipment and gain independence and confidence. The group go on outings and make use of the extensive grounds nearby to extend knowledge and understanding of the outdoor world. All documentation pertaining to the nursery is in place and staff

are efficient in working with policies and procedures. Methods of recording accidents and incidents are under review.

Staff have a good awareness of safety and take steps to minimize risks. Visitors are rigorously checked and supervised. Health and hygiene is promoted and children wash their hands without prompting after going to the toilet and messy play. Staff have a list of children's dietary needs, they have fruit for their morning snack. All staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures.

Play opportunities are provided which are planned well, ensuring that children have access to stimulating activities that nurture curiosity and help them progress in all areas of learning, although there are some opportunities missed to promote equal opportunities. Staff have an understanding of special needs although access to the provision for children with physical disabilities is limited. The interaction between staff and children is warm and caring. Clear guidelines for behaviour are in place which help children to feel safe and secure.

Parents are given useful information about the care of their children via the notice board, newsletters and children's own books. Parents make valuable contributions to the care of their children which help staff to provide consistent care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- Children have freedom to access all toys and resources. Children take charge of selecting and helping to put toys away, and for caring for their nursery with the co-operation of their friends. Staff encourage children's independence.
- The nursery has strong links with Leechpool School. There is a good relationship that supports staff, especially on the administration side of the nursery.
- The manager is very experienced and is effective in developing a strong team who work well together to ensure the daily operation of the nursery runs smoothly.
- The staff work to develop the relationship between the nursery and home. Parents are very supportive and contribute to fundraising events so staff are able to buy quality resources and improve on safety aspects of the nursery.
- Staff are child focused and their interaction with the children is positive and encouraging which supports the children's awareness of themselves and supports learning.

What needs to be improved?

- access for children with disabilities
- books depicting other cultures
- information on accidents and incidents.

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
5	Increase the number of children's books that reflect cultural diversity.
10	Prepare an action plan on how children with physical disabilities can be included into the nursery.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at The Caterpillar Club is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff are enthusiastic in their teaching methods and are committed to developing their own knowledge and professionalism with training. Children benefit from staff's relaxed, happy approach, making learning fun. Children feel a sense of belonging to the nursery and happily play in all areas. They develop their independence as they make their own choices of the established and mostly well prepared activities made by staff, although there is not a large variety of craft resources available for free play. All staff are involved in planning and make good assessments on children's progress in line with the stepping stones. They know the children well and naturally guide their progress through quality activities and questioning skills.

The leadership and management are very good. The manager is fully involved in the daily operation of the nursery. Her experience and knowledge supports staff with planning and she encourages training. She ensures that all staff are well deployed and all are clear on their roles. Staff are keen to take responsibility and they all work competently as a team. The manager is committed to improving the nursery in every way. She has regular staff meetings where they plan and evaluate current practice and, although some observations are not linked to future planning, the manager has addressed this and written plans are in place for improvement.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are made to feel very welcome. Staff speak to them daily on children's progress. Parents receive information about the learning goals and letters are sent out on planned activities so parents are able to support children's learning at home.

What is being done well?

- Parents feel well supported and informed. Staff make every effort to learn about each child's individual needs before starting and they keep very good records on children's progress. They keep these in the child's 'special book' so parents can see how their children are achieving at nursery.
- Children enjoy their independence, they are confident about looking after themselves, going to the toilet, washing hands and putting on their coats. They make choices and can freely access activities inside or outside.
- Children enjoy story time. They participate in all aspects of the story, taking on different roles such as the 'three bears' which help to bring the story alive.
- Staff make effective use of the garden and grounds within the school. Children learn many skills for physical development with the various

apparatus, as well as appreciating the world of nature with growing flowers and vegetables.

What needs to be improved?

- consistency in linking child observations to future planning
- craft areas to expand creativity.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and interact positively with each other and adults within the nursery. They establish good relationships with each other and engage in co-operative play. The organisation of activities and equipment provide opportunities for children to develop independence and confidence with familiar activities, as well as providing sufficient challenge to develop skills with new experiences. Children are respected and listened to and are encouraged to take part in group discussions.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children have confidence to ask questions and they use expressive language to communicate their feelings and experiences. Children show an interest in books and story time is fun and enjoyable and they all participate. Children see printed words throughout the nursery and understand the value of writing and they take opportunities to practice writing skills in many different ways.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing good counting skills and use every opportunity by playing interesting games such as catching fish. They sing number songs and understand what happens when one number is taken away. There are numbers displayed throughout the nursery and children count the animals and understand the printed number. They have opportunities for sequencing using shells and leaves. They measure themselves and see how graphs work with the fund raising programme.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children take advantage of their surrounding area and gardens to explore nature and the world of mini-beasts. They learn how to care for animals through topic work. Children build and design using interlinking bricks and shapes. Children make visits in the community and different professions visit to give talks. Technology is in the form of a computer where children know how to turn it on and work independently. Children learn about other cultures through other members in their group.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move with co-ordination and have a good sense of direction. They use their bodies to explore different ways of moving and show ability to control speed and have a good spatial awareness both indoors and outside. Children use a wide range of large and small apparatus with increasing confidence. Children have healthy snacks and staff talk to them about different foods during break time.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children name a range of colours and mix paints together. They explore different materials using their senses. Children enjoy singing and have fun in the role play area dressing up in a variety of costumes to help them in their acting. They use puppets and enact stories such as the Three Bears. Children sing and enjoy playing musical instruments. Children benefit from supervised craft work although the craft area has limited resources for children to develop their own creativity.

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:
- increasing resources in the craft area where children can construct and build with various materials to develop children's free creative play.

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.