



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 321471

DfES Number: 520212

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/08/2004  
Inspector Name Diane Lynn Turner

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care  
Setting Name Priory Street Nursery  
Setting Address 15 Priory Street  
Bishophill  
York  
North Yorkshire  
YO1 6ET

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name York Council for Voluntary Service

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name York Council for Voluntary Service  
Address Priory Street Nursery  
17 Priory Street, Bishophill  
York  
North Yorkshire  
YO1 6ET

## 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

Priory Street Nursery has been registered to provide full day care since October 1992 and is run by the charity York Council for Voluntary Service. It operates from the Priory Street Centre in the Micklegate area of York which is situated close to the city centre. Children are cared for in a self contained unit within the building, which has one main playroom with a designated sleeping area and integral kitchen and toilet facilities. Office facilities for the nursery's use are located within the building. There is an enclosed outdoor area adjacent to the playroom with equipment for outdoor use.

The nursery serves various parts of the city and its surrounding areas and is registered to provide care for 18 children aged from birth to five years, eight of whom may be aged under two years. There are currently 24 children on roll including two funded three-year-olds and three funded four-year-olds. The nursery opens from 08.30 to 17.30 Monday to Friday all year round with the exception of Bank Holidays and one week at Christmas. Children attend on both a full and part time basis. The nursery welcomes and supports children who have special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

Seven members of staff including the manager work directly with the children. Five have an early years qualification to level three and one is working towards this. They receive support from the development workers at the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

Priory Street Day Nursery provides good quality care for children. There is a high level of qualified and experienced staff who have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities and work effectively together as a team. There are effective procedures to monitor their performance and most show a commitment to updating their knowledge and developing their practice through training. There are some constraints and difficulties presented by caring for a wide age range in one room, particularly regarding the provision of sleep facilities, but staff overcome these well

and there is no adverse effect on the children's care. The environment provided is welcoming, clean and well maintained with a range of toys and play equipment that are used effectively by staff to support children's play and learning in all areas.

Staff demonstrate a good awareness of all risks to children's health and safety. There are effective procedures to identify and minimise hazards, ensure good hygiene practices and protect children from possible abuse. Varied and nutritious meals and snacks, including a cooked mid day meal are provided. These take into account the children's dietary needs and preferences.

The children's individual needs are known, understood and met by staff who have a commitment to ensuring that all children have equal opportunities and access to activities. A good range of interesting and well planned practical activities are provided which meet the needs of all ages attending. Staff support children very well, extending their development and learning in all areas. There are clear boundaries for behaviour and these are maintained in age appropriate ways in a caring and consistent manner.

Parents are made very welcome. There are effective systems in place to share information and they are kept very well informed about the setting and their child's progress. All documentation is in place and used consistently but sometimes lacks the necessary detail.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection the nursery agreed to ensure all furniture and equipment is in good repair, devise and implement a risk assessment procedure to identify and minimise hazards, provide evidence of documentation relating to the use of vehicles, devise and implement a system to record significant incidents and devise a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

All items of furniture have been checked for damage and all the child sized chairs and two of the high chairs have been replaced. A book to record incidents is now in place and copies of valid motor insurance certificates and driving licences held by two members of staff are available on site in the event of their vehicles needing to be used to transport children. A risk assessment that is routinely reviewed has been carried out on the premises to identify and minimise hazards, and a procedure drawn up to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff or volunteer. The action taken has added to the safe and efficient management of the service.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Children are cared for in a friendly, homely environment.
- Staff know all the children very well. They fully support their learning and there is good interaction on a one to one basis.
- There is a stable team of staff who work well together and are fully involved

in all aspects of the provision.

- Staff make very good use of the mezzanine area to provide very interesting opportunities for the children to be involved in role play.
- Parents are made very welcome and staff give excellent attention to gaining and exchanging information about the children and their care.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the documentation in relation to the complaints procedure, attendance records and lost child policy.

#### **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
2	Produce a written statement detailing the procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost.
14	Ensure the arrival and departure times of staff, children and visitors are recorded.
14	Ensure the complaints procedure includes Ofsted's contact details.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Priory Street Nursery provides a happy and welcoming environment where overall children make generally good progress towards the Early Learning Goals with very good progress being made in some areas of learning.

Teaching is generally good. Staff demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and how children learn. The accommodation is well organised and a good range of well planned, practical activities is offered in most areas. Staff know the children very well, take into account their individual learning needs and use effective questioning during activities to develop their understanding and encourage their thinking. Planning is clear, covers most areas and identifies the intended learning outcome. Staff make careful assessments of children's responses to activities and use them to plan for their future learning. Behaviour is managed well. The staff's polite and calm manner sets a good example for the children to follow.

The leadership and management of the nursery is generally good. The manager is committed to ensuring children's safety and well being and improving practices. She leads the staff well, valuing and encouraging the sharing of their individual skills. Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and know each other well. Most have worked together for a number of years. The systems to monitor their development works well and the educational programme is monitored effectively in most areas.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents and staff have a friendly relationship and they are kept well informed about forthcoming events and activities through newsletters, displays and one to one contact with staff as key workers. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning and ideas to support this at home are regularly shared. Parents speak highly of the activities and experiences that are provided and are confident that their children are making good progress.

### What is being done well?

- Both the three and four-year-olds show a very caring and considerate approach towards the very young children being cared for within the group.
- High priority is given to developing children's communication, language and literacy skills with staff making good use of every opportunity to help children recognise letters and their associated sounds.
- Children have very good opportunities to use their design and making skills to construct 3D models on both a large and small scale.
- Both the three and four-year-olds demonstrate excellent spatial awareness when completing jigsaws of increasing difficulty.

- Staff provide the children with excellent role play opportunities through their creative use of the nursery's mezzanine area.
- Children have good opportunities to learn about growth, the care of living things and use their senses in the nursery's herb garden.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the planning of some activities to ensure children have sufficient opportunities to access and use the nursery computer and to develop an understanding of time
- the opportunities for children to use their independent creativity, particularly during focused activities
- the system to ensure the education programme is effective in all areas.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection the nursery was asked to adapt the assessment records so that children's progress can be measured against the early learning goals, involve the parents in sharing what they know about their child and include their contributions in the children's records of progress, place more emphasis on developing children's throwing and catching skills and make them aware of the effect of exercise on their bodies.

Very good progress has been made in implementing the action plan developed in response to the issues raised. Staff make regular assessments of the children's responses to activities and use these to inform the assessment record sheets they have introduced. These clearly detail the children's progress towards the early learning goals. Parents are able to see their child's record of progress at any time and are encouraged to take this home and add their comments and observations. Equipment has been purchased and is used effectively to help the children develop their throwing and catching skills. Planning shows that staff regularly raise children's awareness of the effect of exercise on their bodies both through physical activities and planned topics.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

All children are very confident, keen and motivated to learn. They enthusiastically try out new ideas and experiences and most show good levels of concentration in both large and small groups. They confidently choose between activities, select resources for themselves and take care of their personal needs such as toileting and washing their hands. Their behaviour is good. They share and take turns, use good manners and are considerate to others, particularly the very young children in the group.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children demonstrate good speaking and listening skills. They initiate conversation, enjoy listening to stories and know that print carries meaning. They can confidently name a number of letters and their associated sounds through the letter of the week and correctly identify their names when finding their name card at meal times. Both the three and four-year olds can write their names which they do so confidently to identify their work, forming the letters correctly.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Both three and the four-year-olds can count reliably up to 10 and demonstrate this during activities such as adding the correct number of legs when making an octopus. They demonstrate excellent spatial awareness when completing jigsaws and can correctly name and identify the differences between a number of shapes. They learn about capacity during water and sand play and use number confidently in the outside area when playing games such as hopscotch and throwing bean bags into numbered spaces.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have good opportunities to learn about the environment and living things as they grow and care for plants and learn about insects in the garden. They make models from construction sets and use recycled materials to make both large and small scale 3D models such as boats which they use during role play. They show an understanding of ICT during their play but the opportunities to use the nursery computer are insufficient as are the opportunities to develop an understanding of time.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

All children move confidently around the premises demonstrating good body control and co-ordination. They can successfully negotiate a pathway when running and chasing each other and show good control when using wheeled toys. They throw bean bags accurately during games such as Aunt Sally when they successfully hit an identified target and their fine motor skills are developing very well. They use equipment such as scissors, cutlery, pencils and paint brushes confidently and effectively.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children have opportunities to explore colour, media and materials through practical activities. They draw freely and use paint and collage materials in different ways when making pictures. However, activities are sometimes over prepared which limits their independent creativity. They use their imagination to express and communicate their feelings through role play when they act out going on a boat and have regular opportunities to join in with singing activities, often with musical instruments.

**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**

- increase the opportunities for the children to access and use the nursery computer and to develop an understanding of time, particularly in relation to the days of the week
- ensure the children have opportunities to use their independent creativity, particularly during focused activities.

*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.*