



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 218256

DfES Number: 515123

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/03/2004
Inspector Name	Dianne Lynn Sadler

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	THE ARK NURSERY
Setting Address	ST MARTINS CENTRE ELLERBECK, STONEYDELPH TAMWORTH STAFFORDSHIRE B77 4JA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	THE ARK NURSERY COMMITTEE
Address	ST MARTINS CENTRE ELLERBECK, STONEYDELPH TAMWORTH STAFFORDSHIRE B77 4JA

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

The Ark Nursery opened in 1992. It offers sessional care for children aged two years and six months to five years. The nursery is based in St Martins Centre in Stoneydelph. All children have access to a secure play area.

Currently 55 children attend the nursery throughout the week. This includes 37 funded 3-year olds and 2 funded 4-year-old. They are drawn from the local community and attend for a variety of sessions. None of the children speak English as an additional language, and three have special educational needs.

The nursery is open each day between 9.15 until 11.45 and 12.15 until 14.45, term time only.

Five staff work in the nursery. All staff hold an early years qualification to NVQ level 2 or 3. Staff receive support from an advisory teacher 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?

The Ark Nursery offers high quality provision overall which helps children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of the teaching is very good. Staff have a very good understanding of the foundation stage and are involved in organising clear, concise educational plans. Activities are stimulating and well planned and ensure children are presented with sufficient challenges. Staff listen to what children say and extend children's learning by encouraging them to think and express their ideas and feelings. Staff adapt activities well to ensure all children are included and achieve, especially children with special educational needs.

There are plans to further extend children's progress in the area of creative development by the use of a sensory area.

The leadership and management of the nursery are very good. Staff work well as a team and are included in all the planning and decision making for the future. Communication is effective and there is a commitment to further training. The group are good at identifying their strengths and weaknesses and have plans in place to make them more effective.

The partnership with parents is very good. Staff work very closely with parents and there are good opportunities for parents to receive and discuss information about the provision and children's development. Parents are encouraged to participate and affect the children's' learning, ensuring good links between home and nursery.

What is being done well?

- Staff listen to what children say and extend their learning by encouraging them to think and express their ideas and feelings.
- Well planned activities ensure older and more able children are presented with sufficient challenge.
- The inclusion of children with special educational needs, who are presented with activities and tasks that ensure they achieve.
- Opportunities for children to develop in all areas, especially in personal, social and emotional, where children are motivated to learn, are confident and developing very good relationships.
- Staff respond to spontaneous events well, extending the children's learning, thinking and development.
- Staff develop good relationships with the parents, who are encouraged to participate and affect the children's' learning, ensuring good links between

home and pre-school.

What needs to be improved?

- children's further progress in creative development, in exploration, using their senses.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. The staff have provided more activities and resources in IT, developed children's knowledge and understanding about sounds and letters of the alphabet and ensured all staff understand and use planning documents effectively which were raised at the last inspection

There is a wide range of I.T. resources and well-planned activities, which ensure children are making good progress in this area of learning. Children are also making good progress in their recognition and developing sounds and letters of the alphabet with the aid of new resources purchased. Staff are involved in the planning for children's learning and are all knowledgeable in the early learning goals. There is support and guidance given if needed by the use of staff meetings.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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All children are interested in activities offered and are able to sit and concentrate for appropriate periods of time. Staff have consistent and clear expectations of the children's behaviour, which are discussed regularly during the day. Separate work areas within the room enables children to choose resources for themselves and work independently and as part of a group. Children also develop their self-help skills and independence throughout the day in a variety of situations.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children listen well to stories and are able to use language and communication for prediction and to extend thinking. They are able to confidently communicate ideas and feelings with peers and adults. Children are developing an enjoyment of books and demonstrate an understanding of how to use them. All 3 and 4-year-olds are able to recognise and attempt to write their own name, and are able to link sounds and letters of the alphabet. All children are able to make marks with meaning in print.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to count and recognise shape, size and numbers, through well-planned activities. Throughout the session children are exploring different concepts, e.g. calculation, capacity and are using mathematical ideas to solve problems. Their understanding of numbers is reinforced as they take part in routine tasks such as at snack time counting out name cards.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to discuss past, present and future events with competence. They are also able to investigate and explore a range of objects and materials, the natural world and the community in which they live. Children are able to learn about their own culture and beliefs and that of others.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to develop a sense of space, skills and awareness of their own bodies. They access a wide range of large and small equipment to develop fine motor and gross motor skills. The music and movement sessions enable children to develop their imagination, co-ordination and movement.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
<p>Children have plenty of opportunities to explore colour, texture, shape, form and music. Children are encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas, thoughts and feelings in a variety of activities and explore using their senses. Children confidently recite nursery rhymes from memory in small group situations.</p>	
<p>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</p>	

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 further improving children's exploration in creative development, using their senses.

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.