



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 250044

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 03/03/2005
Inspector Name Janet Ann Keeling

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name First Choice Childcare - Langley
Setting Address Langley Primary School
St. Bernards Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B92 7DJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Dawn Ekins

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

First Choice Childcare opened in March 2000. The childcare facility is privately owned, it operates from a single story building, situated in the grounds of Langley Junior and Infant School in Olton, Solihull. A full range of day care services are provided, including nursery care, holiday play care, before and after school and a wrap around service for children attending Langley Nursery. The nursery has three main playrooms, a kitchen, bathrooms and staff /office facilities.

There are currently 94 children from 2 -11 years on roll. This includes 8 funded three year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The provision is open five days a week from 07:30hrs until 18:00hrs with a brief shut down between Christmas and the New Year.

There are a total of 10 staff employed. Seventy percent of the staff hold a child care 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?

First Choice Nursery provides good quality nursery education, which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals in communication, language and literacy, and mathematics, and very good progress in all other areas.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff are enthusiastic, committed and provide a wide range of interesting activities, which promote children's learning towards the early learning goals. Although, attention is needed to strengthen the programme for communication, language and literacy, and mathematics. Staff have created a friendly and relaxed environment where a balance of both adult-led and child-initiated learning takes place. Staff have developed warm and trusting relationships with the children, staff are calm, patient and provide good role models. Staff assess and record children's progress towards the early learning goals, although, information gained, is not yet fully linked to future planning.

Leadership and management is very good. Strong leadership provides good support for staff. Managers are highly motivated, organised and are fully committed to improving the quality of the educational programme. Staff work well as a team and are aware of their roles and responsibilities, staff meet regularly to discuss planning and topic work. Staff are encouraged to access further training, and to work with a teacher mentor to monitor and evaluate current practice.

Partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are made to feel welcome through personal contact and are kept fully informed of their child's progress, through daily feedback, written progress reports and more detailed feedback at parents evenings. Although, at present, parents are not fully involved in their child's on-going assessments. Notice boards provide parents with up to date information about activities, routines and nursery events. The nursery prospectus is being reviewed to include information on the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a welcoming and stimulating environment where children are encouraged to learn through a wide range of both adult-led and child-initiated play.
- Staff work effectively as a team and are committed to improving the quality of the educational programme.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good and is a strength of the nursery. Children are happy, confident, eager to learn and have developed very positive relationships with staff and their peer groups.
- Staff are calm, patient and provide good role models. Staff actively praise and encourage children's good behaviour and achievements.

- Leadership and management are well established and have a very positive impact on children's learning and progress.
- The partnership with parents and carers is good and is effective in supporting children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the programme for communication, language and literacy, and mathematics
- the assessment procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and eager to learn, they show initiative and respond positively to support and guidance. Children have developed very good relationships with adults and their peers, children learn to share, take turns and readily offer help to other children. Children have a positive attitude to learning and respond enthusiastically to a wide range of activities. Children are developing personal independence as they confidently put on their coats and hats for outdoor play.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident and fluent speakers, they listen with enjoyment to stories and can recall story lines, however, children are not always encouraged to use the book corner independently. Children are beginning to learn that print carries meaning, as they recognise their name on place mats at lunch time. Children have access to a writing area, but, resources made available, are limited. Children are able to recall past and present experiences of home and nursery as they share news together.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are familiar with number rhymes and songs, such as 'five speckled frogs' and 'once I caught a fish alive'. Most children can count up to five, whilst more able children count up to ten. However, children are not always encouraged to use number as part of everyday routine. Children's understanding of mathematical terms which describe shape, position and size is developing. Children are able to name shapes, such as circle, square and triangle and can match, sort and sequence objects.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children show great interest in their natural and local environment, as they visit the local duck pond, library and Doctors surgery, and, search for 'mini beasts' in the woods. Children have opportunities to build and construct with a wide range of materials. Children have access to a computer and programmable toys to support their learning. They take part in well planned activities which look at their own and other cultures, they have access to a range of toys which promote positive imagery.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show good co-ordination as they move confidently around the nursery and show increasing skill as they negotiate the climbing frame and balancing beams. Children participate enthusiastically in their regular music and movement sessions, they develop their jumping, hopping, balancing and spatial awareness skills. Children develop their fine co-ordination skills through various techniques, such as, threading, cutting and rolling. Children are developing an awareness of personal hygiene.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children participate in a wide range of activities and use a good variety of resources to explore colour, shape and texture. Children develop their imagination through activities such as, role play, free painting and music and movement sessions. Children explore sound effectively through singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. Children engage in many activities which enable them to explore their senses, such as, food tasting, listening to taped music and observing the weather changes.

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

- Encourage children to use the book corner independently and develop the range of resources in the writing area, also, ensure staff use daily routine and practical activities to help children develop and consolidate their understanding of number.
- Introduce ways that would enable parents to contribute to their child's on-going assessments and ensure information gained from children's assessments is used to inform planning and guide teaching.

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.