

South Normanton Nursery

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	112484
Local Authority	DERBYSHIRE
Inspection number	289296
Inspection date	16 May 2007
Reporting inspector	Andrew Cook HMI

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Nursery
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3–5
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	84
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Wendy Comins
Headteacher	Mrs Barbara Morrison
Date of previous school inspection	21 May 2001
School address	Hamlet Lane South Normanton Alfreton Derbyshire DE55 2JB
Telephone number	01773 810876
Fax number	01773 810876

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Description of the school

The Nursery has 80 part time places. There are two Nursery sessions one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The building is relatively small but is complimented by an extensive outdoor area. About half of the children are deemed to require additional support because they have difficulty accessing learning. Most of the children are White British. The nursery was awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark in June 2005. During the inspection building work had started on extending the Nursery and making it part of a Children's Centre.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 1

This is a Nursery where children make outstanding progress because staff work as a team to make learning fun and exciting. 'Outstanding' also describes all other areas of the Nursery's work and many parents agree. Comments such as, 'Since my child has attended Nursery, her progress has improved immensely' and, 'Since starting, we have noticed our son becoming a self assured, confident little boy!' sum up the respect parents have for the work of the Nursery.

The headteacher is an exemplary role model. She is part of the teaching team and leads by her own very high expectations and enthusiasm. She shares the leadership role with the Nursery teacher who is very effective and has significantly improved aspects of the Nursery; for example, the way in which more able children are helped to make outstanding progress.

Teaching is always good and often outstanding. Teachers and Nursery staff skilfully plan and manage a vast range of activities that ensure children learn quickly. Many of these activities are outside and part of the excellent outdoor provision. Teachers and Nursery staff also make sure that all children have activities that match their individual learning and emotional needs. In order to do this, very effective support and challenge is given to those children who are more able and those who need extra help.

Children's behaviour is excellent and they really enjoy their time in the Nursery. From the minute they walk through the door, they are engrossed in a vast range of well planned activities. Relationships between adults and children are excellent and, as a result, children's confidence grows and they feel completely safe and cared for. At times, opportunities are missed to get children working collaboratively so that they can build up their team skills. Children learn how to keep healthy and they eat healthy snacks every day. The use of the outdoor equipment ensures that they make excellent progress in their physical development.

The Nursery values getting parents involved in their children's education. Staff are very good at ensuring parents know how well their children are doing and what they need to learn next. Other excellent examples of working in partnership include a member of staff making home visits to encourage learning through play and staff writing individual diaries for children so that parents know exactly how well each day has gone.

The governors have organised their work so that they can make ongoing checks on the effectiveness of the nursery. Working with the headteacher there is a clear purpose in all that is done and a determination to maintain high standards.

What the school should do to improve further

- Further extend the opportunities children have to work and play together collaboratively.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 1

All children make at least good progress in every area of the curriculum and most make outstanding progress in some areas. When children begin attending the Nursery, many do not have the skills and knowledge that are expected for their age. This is especially the case for speaking and listening. However, they quickly respond to the learning opportunities they are given and begin to make rapid progress. By the time they leave the Nursery, children are reaching or exceeding the learning goals they are expected to reach before they are five years

old. This very positive picture is the same for boys and girls and the children who have a learning difficulty or disability.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

Children's personal development is outstanding. Provision for social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is outstanding. What the nursery does especially well is identify and support the children who lack confidence or who need extra support. Carefully planned one-to-one work is crucial to the effectiveness of this work, as is the ongoing involvement of parents. Children work and play safely together and know that the Nursery staff will look after them. Healthy eating is promoted extremely well. Children are given healthy snacks and enjoy eating a range of vegetables, fruits and cheese. On some occasions, healthy snacks reflect the rich variety of food from different cultures. Children's behaviour is excellent because they enjoy learning so much. They are constantly engrossed in the stimulating activities on offer. Although there is plenty of enjoyment and excellent behaviour, some opportunities are missed to help children work together collaboratively. At the end of a session all children help to tidy away which helps them realise they need to do their bit for the Nursery. Children learn basic skills effectively and, supported by gains in confidence and maturity, are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 1

Teaching is outstanding and captures children's imaginations extremely effectively contributing to accelerated progress. This is because teachers and nursery nurses create exciting activities that engage children fully in their learning. Relationships between adults and children are excellent. This creates a Nursery where children feel confident to engage in activities and achieve very well as a consequence. Constant high quality checks are made of how well children are making progress. The information gathered from these checks is extremely effective in helping teachers and nursery nurses to plan teaching and learning. This information also ensures that those who need extra help are quickly identified so that they receive timely and appropriate support tailored to their individual needs. For those who are more able or who have special talents, very effective systems are in place to give them opportunities to flourish at what they do best.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 1

The curriculum is a significant feature of the Nursery. There is a huge range of well thought out, exciting and enjoyable activities in which children can become involved. Each activity, from gardening to ordering numbers, gets children learning and gaining in confidence. The outdoor curriculum is exceptional. It is totally understandable why staff want to use this excellent resource as much as possible. The use of each area outside and each piece of equipment is well thought out and reflects high expectations.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 1

The care, guidance and support children receive are excellent. All the necessary checks are made in connection with health and safety and keeping children safe. Whenever there is a need, the very good relationships with health and social services ensures that children's needs are met. The very effective use of targets for learning ensures the staff guide each individual child's learning.

Leadership and management

Grade: 1

The headteacher provides an exemplary role model and ensures that all staff feel valued. Staff work as a team and work incredibly hard to meet the headteacher's very high expectations. Joint leadership and management responsibilities between the headteacher and the Nursery teacher are very effective.

All staff get involved in rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of the Nursery. Accurate judgements have been made and extremely high expectations continue to drive staff to make further improvements. This concerted effort has been successful in the past and demonstrates the school's excellent capacity to improve further. For example, the school was involved in a successful programme of work to improve children's speaking and listening.

Governance is good. Governors have recently improved the way in which they support and challenge the school. For example, there is a governor linked to the work done in each part of the curriculum which is helping governors to monitor the developments. Governors have evaluated their own effectiveness and fully appreciate the challenges of their responsibilities.

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Annex A

Inspection judgements

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	School Overall
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Overall effectiveness

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?	1
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	1
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards ¹ reached by learners	2
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	1
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	1

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The behaviour of learners	1
The attendance of learners	1
How well learners enjoy their education	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	2

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	1
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	1
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1

¹ Grade 1 - Exceptionally and consistently high; Grade 2 - Generally above average with none significantly below average; Grade 3 - Broadly average to below average; Grade 4 - Exceptionally low.

Annex A

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	1
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	1
How effectively performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets	1
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	1
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	1
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

17 May 2007

Dear Children

Inspection of South Normanton Nursery School, Hamlet Lane, South Normanton, Alfreton, DE55 2JB

Do you remember when I visited your nursery? I had to find out all about the things you were doing. This is what I found:

- Your Nursery is very special.
- Barbara, your headteacher, and all the adults do a brilliant job.
- Your outside play area is wonderful.
- All of the adults look after you well.
- Your mums and dads like the Nursery too.
- You eat lots of healthy snacks.

Here is one thing for you to do:

I have asked Barbara to help you to work together in an even better way.

I really enjoyed my visit. Thank you for being so friendly.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cook - Her Majesty's Inspector