



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY242237

DfES Number: 580679

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/02/2004
Inspector Name Avril Harpley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Independent School
Setting Name Fairfield School
Setting Address Leicester Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2AE

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

Fairfield Preparatory School is an independent primary school and part of the larger Loughborough Endowed Schools complex. The Pre-preparatory Department includes three reception classes for children aged four years.

There are currently 62 children in reception classes and of these, 36 are funded. None of the funded children have been identified as having special educational needs or have English as an additional language.

Each class has a qualified teacher, one of whom is the Early Years Co-ordinator, these all teach physical education. There is a full time nursery nurse in each class. In addition there are further qualified part-time staff who teach music, Information Communication and Technology (ICT). The Head of the Pre-preparatory Department also teaches part-time in the reception classes.

All the four-year-old children have access to indoors and outdoor facilities.

The school operates a full day session, with registration at 8:45 and the day ends at 15.40. There are three terms a year.

The children come from a wide catchment area around the city of Leicester and also from the adjacent counties of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

The staff take advantage of training and support offered through the Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and external agencies.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Fairfields Preparatory school offers very good, high quality education where the children achieve consistently high standards in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Teachers are skilled practitioners and the children benefit from the staff's experience and their sound knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals. They use very effective methods to reach their teaching objectives. Sessions are carefully planned and well-prepared to secure maximum progress and matched to children's individual needs. The children are enthusiastic and motivated to learn. Regular assessments record their progress and provide information for future planning.

The leadership and management of the setting is very good. The pre-preparatory team are committed to the aims and goals of the setting and empowered by the management. They are effectively deployed and have clear roles and responsibilities. Co-ordinators regularly monitor, evaluate and improve the provision. Staff continue to update their knowledge and understanding by attending professional development courses.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good and this has a positive impact on the children's learning and achievement. Parents receive extensive information about the setting, the provision and the curriculum. This is presented in a formal Prospectus and also in regular newsletters. An attractive welcome area provides further information. There are many opportunities for parents to talk with staff on a daily basis. Progress reports are given twice a year at parents' evenings. Children's work is presented at one of these evenings and is always available at other times. Parents report that they are very happy with the provision.

What is being done well?

- Staff set high standards for behaviour and have high expectations of children. These are encouraged and supported through interaction and praise.
- Children are making very good progress, achieving high standards in all six areas of learning.
- Excellent resources, material, physical and human, support the curriculum and stimulate the children's interest and motivation.
- Parents and carers are welcomed and provided with a wealth of information. They are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to develop their spatial awareness and how to control and manoeuvre wheeled toys.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made generally good progress since the last inspection. Documentation has been reviewed and planning is now linked effectively to the early learning goals. The development of the use of the outdoor environment is not fully implemented due to circumstances beyond their control.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children are confident, self-assured and independent. They display strong dispositions for learning and maintain high levels of involvement and concentration. Children are forming secure relationships with each other and with the adults and work together harmoniously. There is a sense of community. Behaviour is very good, the children are polite and well-mannered and show care and concern for others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

The children are confident readers and writers, some exceed expectations and work to a very high standard. They express themselves clearly using a well-developed vocabulary and complex sentences. They listen attentively and respond to instructions. Through the provision of stimulating role-play the children use their imagination and act out scenarios. A wide range of accessible resources allows them to practise writing skills and enjoy books.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children show a keen interest in mathematics and take part in practical experiments and mental maths that are reinforced through games and activities. Many are confident in the use of numbers from 1-10, and some beyond, and can write the numerals clearly. Mathematics is used extensively in activities providing opportunities for the children to demonstrate their problem solving skills. The children learn to perform simple calculations and record them in workbooks.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

The children examine objects and materials using all their senses. They observe, predict and record as they question why things happen and how things work. The children design and construct using a variety of tools and materials. Technology is used well to support their learning. Children can operate simple programmable toys and perform functions on a computer successfully. Through many interesting projects they are developing an awareness of their own culture and the wider world.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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The children are acquiring a wide range of physical skills that develop their whole bodies and provides enjoyment. They can move confidently and imaginatively in a variety of ways showing good control and co-ordination. They handle small tools safely and are able to write neatly using well-formed letters and numerals. Children have fewer opportunities to manoeuvre wheeled toys.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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The children respond to their experiences and develop their imagination using a wide variety of different media. They work in both two and three dimensions and are encouraged to handle different materials. They explore sound with a music specialist and can sing in tune, keeping in time as they play percussion instruments. Music also provides opportunities for dance. Excellent role-play resources promotes their imaginative play and allows them to communicate their feelings.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately:
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Yes

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

(Key issues or points for consideration for improvement in nursery education)

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to the following:

provide opportunities for children to develop further their spatial awareness and ability to manoeuvre and control wheeled toys.

The registered person 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 combined inspection.

Follow up to Ofsted Report

It has been agreed to purchase 24 ride on toys (funded by the P.T.A.) which are now used on a daily basis by Reception and Year 1 children.



R. OUTWIN-FLINDERS
Headmaster

May 2004