



**Office for Standards
in Education**

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY284824

DfES Number: 520883

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/03/2004
Inspector Name Vanessa Wood

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Mrs Barbers Pre-School
Setting Address Village Hall
 Norman Road
 West Malling
 Kent
 ME19 6RW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Lucy Ellen Fox

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

Mrs Barber's Pre School opened in 1992. It operates from the village hall in West Malling. The pre school serves the local area.

There are currently 50 children aged from two years to five years on roll. This includes twelve funded three year olds and fifteen funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. No children attend with special needs and the group supports two children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term time only. Sessions are from 09:15 to 12:00 and two afternoons from 12:30 until 15:00 hours.

Five full time members of staff and two part time members of staff work with the children. Five members of staff are qualified and one member of staff is currently on a training programme.

The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision at Mrs Barber's Pre School is acceptable and is of high quality overall. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff have a very good understanding of the foundation stage and plan good practical activities that challenge all children. These activities are presented enthusiastically and observations made on children's progress help staff plan effectively for the children's next stage of learning.

Staff use skilful questioning to motivate children and encourage learning. Good use of resources ensures children's imagination and problem solving skills are promoted. Staff confidently support and extend children's learning during free play activities. Staff are good role models and help children build warm, trusting relationships with peers and adults.

Leadership and management is good. Staff understand their roles and responsibilities within the setting and work well together as a team. Staff are committed to providing a high standard of education and their practice is reviewed on a regular basis. Organisation and deployment of staff is good, although, arrangements of activities during free play could be more effective to support different types of learning for children.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are welcomed into the setting and are kept well informed through newsletters and the notice board. Parents know their child's key work and they are regularly invited to discuss their child's progress towards the early learning goals. All information is shared.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Staff made good relationships with children and encourage them to develop confidence and self esteem.
- Staff have a good understanding of the foundation stage and the quality of teaching is good.
- Planning the curriculum is well thought out and provides a challenge for all children. Staff promote children's learning by providing good practical activities.
- Partnership with parents is strong. Staff foster a good relationship with parents and all information is shared.

What needs to be improved?

- organisation of activities during free play to provide focus areas to support different types of learning
- use of the outside play space to ensure this can be used all year round.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Children's personal, social and emotional development is now managed well and children's behaviour is good. Resources have been improved to include a computer and equipment to promote the understanding of technology. There is now a large board to display children's work and provision has been made to use the outside play space during warmer months of the year.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and well motivated. They have a positive approach to learning and show good levels of concentration. Children form good relationships with adults and peers. They learn to share resources and ideas and recognise the needs of others. Staff encourage independence by giving responsibilities for every day tasks. Great emphasis is placed on developing children's self esteem.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak confidently and staff provide good support in assisting children's developing use of language. Children are developing a good understanding of the link between sounds and letters through stories, rhymes and songs. More able children can write their name and good opportunities are given for children to write for a purpose during everyday activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children effectively use and recognise numbers during group sessions and free play. Children are given the opportunity to count by rote and to recognise numbers. They show a developing understanding of shape and measuring and can use the correct language. Children are developing an understanding of calculation and of adding and taking away.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are given good opportunities to learn about different environments and the world they live in. Conversations with staff during activities encourage children to understand about families and the community they live in. Children have good opportunities to experience technology and enjoy using the computer.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The setting has adequate space for indoor music and movement activities and the use of some large equipment, but limited access to the outside play space. Children are developing their fine motor skills through the use of a range of tools and construction materials.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore colour and texture using a range of painting and collage techniques. Children are provided with opportunities within role play to use their imagination and express and communicate their ideas. Children are given very good opportunities to experience music through planned activities and the singing of everyday songs and rhymes.

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

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:

- Improve organisation of the large hall during free play to provide areas to support different types of learning.
- Develop ideas for using the outside play space all year round.

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.