



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN EY231088**

**DfES Number:**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      28/05/2003  
Inspector Name      Chris Mackinnon

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Full Day Care  
Setting Name      Poets Corner Nursery  
Setting Address      43 Shirley Street  
                                 Hove  
                                 East Sussex  
                                 BN3 3WJ

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Mrs Lynn Hoare

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

Poets Corner first opened in 2002, is privately owned and offers full day care. The provider also owns another two full day care nurseries situated in Brighton. It is registered to care for 32 children aged under five years, of these no more than 12 may be aged under 2 years. There are five main care rooms, with two prepared for children aged under 2 years, one intermediate room and two for older children. There are currently five SEN children attending, and two with English is an additional language. There are nine staff in total with six qualified and others training. The nursery is open Monday to Friday from 7.30 am to 7.00pm all year and is located in single storey building in a residential area close to Hove station. There is a safe and secure outdoor play area.

### How good is the Day Care?

The standard of the care provided for children is good. Staff give high priority to working closely with the children and demonstrated a good knowledge of individual children's needs. The nursery is very well resourced with play materials set-out to invite exploration, with all care rooms welcoming and visually stimulating.

Staff have good safety awareness and procedures, but the risk assessment needs review to include the outdoor play area. The records of accident and incidents also needs to be clearer. Staff have a good awareness of food allergies and intolerances and the children are encouraged to have a good understanding of other cultures. The staff work well with special needs children, they are able to following individual care plans and ensure all children are included in the activities.

The quality of the care for children under two is good, with an effective key worker system enabling good communication with parents. Staff have good awareness of children's development and their knowledge of the early learning goals was evident, with the clear presentation of learning themes that encourage language, mathematical thinking and creativity. The children are involved in their activities and can explore, investigate and relate well to each other.

There is a good partnership with parents, with key staff able to provide regular information on individual children. The parental comments particularly praised staff for their warmth and consistency, but the newsletter for parents could include more information on the learning themes. The nursery also needs to have a clear and detailed complaints procedure, that is available to parents.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Since the last inspection, many staff have completed training, with several staff members now at NVQ level three, providing greater flexibility with more staff members able to deputise. A back-up staff list has also been established and the induction process for new staff has been revised to meet the requirements of the operational plan. A more detailed record of the children's activities, including photos, has been established and the nursery's laundry is now done on-site.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The nursery staff are organised and well deployed, to be effective within the various age ranges.
- Staff are experienced, well trained and confident and demonstrated a good knowledge of individual children and their development needs.
- The quality of the care and learning within the nursery is very good. The needs of each age group are well met, with stimulating and well planned activities. The staff showed a good awareness of the early learning goals and demonstrated an ability to extend learning and encourage and challenge children.
- The nursery is very well resourced with care taken to present a rich and stimulating variety of play materials and equipment that invite exploration and creativity.
- Children have access to well prepared play areas, which are well organised, colourful and visually exciting, with children able to select toys, develop activities and play imaginatively together.
- There is a good emphasis on equal opportunities throughout the nursery, children with special needs are involved in every day activities and children with English as an additional language well supported. Awareness of disability and other cultures is encouraged through a good variety of suitable resources and activities, including world awareness learning themes and the celebration of other culture festivals.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the risk assessment to include the outdoor area;
- the recording and frequency of the Fire evacuation procedure;
- revise medication record to be clearer and separate from other records and to include times of medication;

- produce a clear and detailed written complaints procedure that is available to parents;
- revise accident record to be separate from incident record and to have more space for detailed recording.

### Outcome of the inspection

Good

### CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

*All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.*

*As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.*

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

#### The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
14	revise accident record to be separate from incident record and to have more space fro detailed reporting.
6	revise risk assessment to include outdoor play area and review recording and frequency of Fire evacuation procedure.
7	revise medication to be clearer and separate from other records and to include time of medication.
12	Produce a clear and detailed written complaints procedure that is made known to parents.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Poets Corner Nursery is good. It enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in their personal, social and emotional development and generally good progress in all other areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan a variety of practical activities both indoors and outdoors, and understand what children learn from them. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They set realistic boundaries and understand the importance of praise and encouragement in promoting good behaviour. Group activities for funded children are presented in an enthusiastic manner, but are not always extended to provide sufficient challenge, particularly for the older, more able children. Resources are of good quality and well organised to support children's learning.

The nursery has an effective assessment system in place which enables them to record children's progress towards the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the nursery is good. The owner and the manager work well together as a team and understand their individual roles and responsibilities. Good recruitment and induction procedures, along with an effective appraisal system ensures good management of the nursery. Staff are actively encouraged to attend further training.

Partnership with parents is generally good, they are provided with clear information about the nursery and the learning programme. While there are formal and informal systems in place which allow parents to discuss their child's progress, the system for sharing information on children's progress and achievements is less effective.

### What is being done well?

- Staff create a well planned, stimulating environment where children learn through a wide range of practical play activities.
- Relationships between children and staff are very good. These help children to develop confidence and support all aspects of their learning.
- Children's speaking and listening skill are given good emphasis. They are developing an understanding of different types of communication.
- Staff support children's role-play well. This helps them learn to negotiate, to talk through their imaginative ideas and to learn about their environment.
- Staff question children effectively encouraging them to think for themselves.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the use of assessment records and planning to further extend the more able children.
- the opportunities for parents to receive more information on their child's progress and achievements, and to contribute to their child's assessment records.

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and easily engage in conversation during daily routines and planned activities. Children's ideas and work is valued by the staff, helping develop their self esteem. Children's behaviour is very good and they have good attitudes to learning, showing interest and curiosity. Their skills for looking after themselves are developing well.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident speakers; their ability to talk and negotiate with others is good. They listen to stories, enjoy sharing books with staff and enthusiastically enact familiar stories. Children recognise their first names and are beginning to write these correctly with well-formed letters. They are encouraged to notice the sounds of letters and words.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children count confidently to 10 and beyond. They recognise shapes and enjoy making simple patterns. Their understanding of numbers is reinforced as they take part in everyday activities and daily routines. They are beginning to develop an awareness of simple number operations such as adding together and taking away.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children learn to explore and investigate as they engage in topic work, for example, they learn about growth as they record how their sunflower seedlings are growing.. They enjoy using the computer and know how a mouse works. Staff consistently encourage children to talk about and recall past events. Children extend their knowledge of other cultures through using a suitable range of resources and interesting topics.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children move confidently around the nursery showing a good awareness of space and others. Good use is made of the small outdoor area where children enjoy using the climbing frame and the sit and ride toys. Staff are on hand to support and encourage new skills such as helping children to throw and catch a small ball. Children are learning to handle tools such as pencils, brushes and scissors with increasing skill.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children explore sounds as they sing and play with musical instruments. They are offered activities that encourage them to respond in a variety of ways to what they see, hear, touch and taste. Role play activities are varied and interesting. Children enjoy playing in the 'hairdressers' and the home corner.

**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**

- improve the use of assessment records to help inform the planning, to include extension activities for the more able children;
- improve the systems for sharing with parents their child's achievements and progress towards the early learning goals.

*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.*

## **SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS**

### **STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON**

*Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.*

### **STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION**

*The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.*

### **STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY**

*The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.*

### **STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

*The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.*

### **STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT**

*Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.*

### **STANDARD 6 - SAFETY**

*The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.*

### **STANDARD 7 - HEALTH**

*The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.*

### **STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK**

*Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.*

### **STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.*

### **STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)**

*The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is*

*proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.*

#### **STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR**

*Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.*

#### **STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

*The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.*

#### **STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION**

*The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.*

#### **STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION**

*Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.*