



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 122608

DfES Number: 522359

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 09/03/2004  
Inspector Name Diane Margaret Wilson

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name St John's Nursery Group  
Setting Address Pendleton Road  
Redhill  
Surrey  
RH1 6QG

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St John's Nursery Group

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St John's Nursery Group  
Address St John's Play Group  
St John's County First School, Pendleton Road  
Redhill  
Surrey  
RH1 6QG

## 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

St. John's Nursery Group opened in 1981 and is managed by a parent committee.

It operates from a separate building within the grounds of St. John's Primary School in Redhill, Surrey and serves children from the immediate and surrounding area.

The nursery has its own entrance and uses two linked classrooms with adjacent toilet facilities.

The school playground and hall are available for physical activities.

The nursery opens five days a week during school terms and offers morning and afternoon sessions.

Sessions are from 09:00-12:00 and 12:50-15:20.

Morning and two afternoon sessions are currently for children age three to five years with 22 places available.

Three afternoon sessions are offered to children age two to three years with 16 places available.

There are currently 72 children on roll.

The nursery receives early years funding and support from Surrey Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

There are nine staff employed and four work directly with the children each session.

The staff team have a range of childcare experience and qualifications. Four are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification and six members of staff have a current first aid certificate.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

At St. John's nursery group the nursery education is acceptable and of good quality. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals in personal social and emotional development, communication language and literacy, and very good progress in mathematical development, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development and creative development.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff work with parents as a strong motivated group who all effectively contribute to the children's learning. Staff motivate the children to think through effective use of open questions. Staff are familiar with the early learning goals. The resources support the curriculum and are imaginatively presented. Adults are effectively deployed to assist the children. Although all children are provided with challenge, the older children would benefit from greater independence especially at snack time and by being encouraged to write more independently. Children respond positively to the praise and encouragement given consistently by staff.

Leadership and management is generally good. The committee work closely with the manager and staff. Roles are clearly defined and the manager delegates tasks to provide an effective working team and a stimulating caring environment. Staff all input into the curriculum and are encouraged to attend courses for personal development and extend their knowledge which they then disseminate. All staff contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the activities and curriculum and contribute to the children's profiles. The need to extend older children's independence is not always met.

The partnership with parents is very good. Staff work closely with parents and provide them with regular newsletters, daily communications and termly consultations. Parents are encouraged to come and participate in the nursery as an adult helper and in addition can become a member of the committee or offer specialist help or support.

### What is being done well?

- Mathematics is well promoted through every day activities and children are making good progress towards understanding calculation, numerals, counting. Mathematical language is used effectively, through many activities, to enable children to become familiar with numbers and their meaning. Resources such as puzzles and games along with songs and creative activities support their understanding and reinforce mathematical concepts and make it enjoyable for children.
- Physical development is a strength of the nursery. Children are able to use the school hall and outside play area. Resources are plentiful and children are able to gain good co-ordination skills through using bicycles, balls, and a

range of tools, pencils, and indoor climbing equipment. Children move around confidently both indoors and outside. They have good spatially awareness and move around safely.

- Creative development is imaginatively promoted through a wide range of well planned and resourced activities. Role play is related to stories and children re-enact characters in the story and develop their own interpretation of them. The children's creative work is well displayed throughout the nursery and their imaginations are inspired through the other displays in the nursery.

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

- the opportunities for children to write independently to develop their writing skills and understanding the purpose of mark making.
- the opportunities for children to gain personal independence and develop the ability to meet their own needs.

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

The nursery has made very good progress in addressing the issues raised at the last inspection. Daily plans now show the deployment of staff and how children are to be grouped. On tables and near activities the number of children allowed to be in the area is indicated by a numeral and discussed if too many children are at the activity.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are well behaved. They understand right from wrong and have a good understanding of the guidelines in place, which are clear and consistent. They are learning to take turns in activities such as the marble run and play co-operatively in the sand play. Children are gaining independence and are able to dress themselves although older children would benefit from greater opportunities to independently manage their own needs.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are provided with many opportunities to communicate within small and large groups. The children effectively and confidently communicate with one another and staff. They share ideas and experiences. Children understand that print carries meaning through books, labelling and displays. They are becoming familiar with writing letters and understanding their names and phonic sounds. There are some missed opportunities where children could be encouraged to independently write their names.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's understanding of mathematics is very good and children are encouraged to use mathematical concepts through everyday activities. Children use calculation when sharing out resources. Children are familiar with numerals. Numbers and counting are a regular feature of daily activities. Staff and children use mathematical language effectively to describe shape, position, size and quantity.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are encouraged to think and use their imaginations to learn how and why things work. Children learn about other cultures, the local area and the natural world through topics, stories and discussion. There are plenty of resources accessible to the children as well as other activities to teach children how to design and create objects. Children are becoming familiar with information communication technology through using calculators and programmeable toys.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have a wide range of opportunities to develop their physical skills both indoors and outside. They are able to access and use a range of equipment both large and small with increasing confidence and control. The children move around indoors and outside confidently and safely. Children practice good hygiene skills and are able to dress themselves.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to explore and create forms through different media and are encouraged to develop all their senses. Their imaginations are inspired through a stimulating range of activities provided for them and a wide range of materials accessible to them. Displays show appreciation of children's work and are used to extend children's learning. Children are learning to appreciate music and dance through singing daily and movement done to tapes. Children communicate ideas effectively.

**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**

- develop greater opportunities for children to write their names independently
- provide more opportunities for older children to develop personal independence.

*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.*