



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 125042

DfES Number: 582210

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/01/2004  
Inspector Name Lorna Lorraine Hall

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care, Full Day Care  
Setting Name St Mary's Family Centre Day Nursery  
Setting Address 147 Central Hill  
Upper Norwood  
London  
SE19 1RS

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St. Mary's Family Centre 245644

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St. Mary's Family Centre  
Address Our Lady of Fidelity  
147 Central Hill  
London  
SE19 1RS

## 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

St Mary's Family Centre is set within the grounds of a large Catholic school, and is situated in a residential area.

The Family Centre are have self contained accomodation on the ground floor of a converted school building. An additional prefabricated unit is used as office space and after school club accommodation.

There is an adjacent outside play area which is mainly hard standing. The building is accessible by wheelchair users.

The Family Centre operates on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 09:00 to 17:00, and on Wednesday from 09:00 to 9.00 to 12.30, 50 weeks of the year.

This inspection focussed on the Full Day Care provision.

The Family Centre is run by a management committee. The Vice Chair is also the Registered Provider.

There are four qualified childcare staff, who are supported by an Early Years Advisor.

Some of the children are funded, and there are two children with Special Educational Needs attending the facility.

Four children have English as an additional language.

### How good is the Day Care?

St Mary's Family Centre Day Nursery provides good care for children.

The premises are clean and well maintained. The curriculum follows the HighScope method of teaching. Space is well organised to meet the children's needs so they

can move around freely and have a wide choice of activities at all times of the day. Staff work closely together in implementing the operational plan. Regular meetings are held to review working practices and discuss the training needs of the staff. There are health and safety policies in place which are followed by staff. Children demonstrate a good understanding of personal hygiene and are aware of potential hazards. Staff are very aware of the individual needs of the children and work together to ensure all children are included.

The staff team have a good working knowledge of child protection issues, child development, and how children learn. This is reflected in the wide range and well planned activities available. Children are interested and occupied in the activities which are planned to allow them to develop their own ideas. Good use is made of the outdoor area and natural resources. Relationships between children and staff is well established. Staff value good behaviour and give praise and encouragement.

There is good communication between staff and parents.

Children and parents are greeted when they arrive and parents are given verbal feedback daily.

There are lots of planned opportunities for parents to discuss their child/ren's progress. Policies and procedures are available to parents for their perusal, although the Complaints Procedure does not include Ofsted's address and telephone number.

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

Not applicable.

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

- Staff plan and deliver a well balanced curriculum which gives children the opportunity to explore, investigate and make progress.
- Children with Special Educational Needs are well supported within the nursery.
- A good range of resources are available that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. These resources are used imaginatively by the staff.

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

- the information given to parents about the complaints Procedure.

#### **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  |
|-----|---|
| 12  | Provide parents with information about the Complaints Procedure, which includes the address and telephone number of Ofsted. |

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

St Mary's Family Centre offers high quality education where children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of development.

Teaching is very good due to the positive teaching methods of staff. Staff know children well and have very good relationships with them. Staff are able to engage children fully to extend their individual learning. Behaviour is managed well. Staff plan a wide range of activities and make learning fun. All staff have good knowledge of the early learning goals however, not all staff use observations and assessments to aid planning. More evidence is needed, to show how children have moved from one stage of development to the next. Children's independence and self help skills are encouraged throughout the nursery but could be improved further at mealtimes. Children who have special educational needs are very well supported.

Leadership and management is very good. The setting is effectively managed. The manager takes responsibility for the organisation and deployment of staff. Staff are responsible for the written planning and the manager oversees the end result. The manager and the provider are committed to improvement and have developed a improvement plan. The staff team communicate well and are very supportive of each other. Staff know what is expected of them and are very committed to working as a team.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents stated that they were very happy with the standard of care and education. Parents felt they could approach the staff with any concerns.

They stated that they receive sufficient information and have regular meetings regarding their children's individual progress and events. They also felt that they could participate fully in outings and on special occasions if they wished to do so.

### What is being done well?

- Staff plan an exciting and varied curriculum and ensure resources are available to enhance the children's learning.
- The environment is very well organised and children have access to a wide range of good quality resources especially in the role play area and mathematical development.
- Staff give children a good level of support and follow the children's lead.

### What needs to be improved?

- The opportunities for children to develop independence during mealtimes.

- The way in which children's achievements are recorded.

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

The nursery has made good progress since the last inspection.

The nursery records the comments that are made by parents and carers about their child's home learning and progress.

The curriculum is flexible so that the children can have opportunities for spontaneous activities.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in this area. They are well behaved, with staff providing consistent and realistic boundaries. Children relate well to staff and each other, and are able to share and take turns. Children are confident and motivated to learn. Children have opportunities to develop their independence and self help skills through play, but opportunities were missed for this during mealtimes.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in this area. Children and adults talk freely and confidently to each other to express ideas and feelings. They enjoy looking at books, know how to handle them and enjoy having stories read to them. Staff have developed ideas for using 'props to encourage the children to extend their imagination. There are good opportunities for children to practice writing skills and children are able to write and recognise simple words.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in this area is very good. Children can count confidently up to ten and older children beyond 20. Children have a good understanding of shapes and space, and can compare size and quantity. There are good opportunities to recognise numbers and use maths in everyday activities including the use of simple addition and subtraction. Staff plan mathematics into all areas of the nursery.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making very good progress in this area. They can recall past and present events and show an understanding of time. They have a good understanding of their own community and have good opportunities to learn about other cultures as well as their own. There are good opportunities for children to use IT equipment independently. Staff provide a good range of materials and activities for children to explore and investigate with all their senses.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making very good progress in this area. They move confidently with control and co-ordination and have opportunities to ride bikes, use tunnels and trampolines, and to play with beanbags, hoops and balls and 'parachutes'. Children are developing their fine motor skills with the use of pencils, rolling pins, cutters and scissors. Children have many opportunities to recognise the importance of staying healthy. Good use is made of the outside play area.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Judgement: | Very Good |
|------------|-----------|

Children are making very good progress in this area. Children are confident to use their imagination in role play and music, and to develop their own ideas during creative activities. Children know their colours and are able to match. They are given regular opportunities to take part in spontaneous creative play and free art. Good use is made of the role play area and it is well resourced.

**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:*

- All areas of development are very good.
- Points for consideration:-
- Develop the existing system for recording children's progress and the use of it to aid planning.
- Encourage self help and independence during mealtimes.

*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.*