



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 135108

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/02/2005
Inspector Name Denys Rasmussen

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name The Mousehole Nursery, UCLH
Setting Address U.C.L. Hospitals Staff Nursery
Lower Ground Floor
23 Devonshire Street
London
W1N 1RJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name University College London Hospital Trust

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name University College London Hospital Trust
Address The Mousehole Nursery
U.C.L. Hospitals Staff Nursery
Lower Ground Floor 23 Devonshire Street
London
W1N 1RJ

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

The Mousehole Day nursery opened in September 1991. It is owned by the University College of London Hospital Trust (UCLH). It operates from the basement of a block, containing the halls of residence for UCLH hospital trust. The nursery is self contained and consists of an office, kitchen, adult and child toilets, toddlers group room, pre- school room and baby room. There are also two enclosed spaces for outdoor play. A maximum of 29 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:30 to 18:00 all year round.

There are currently 26 children aged from 5 months to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 3 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area, as most of their parents travel in to work, the nursery is the staff nursery for the trust. The nursery currently supports children with special educational needs.

The nursery employs nine staff members. Seven of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications, one staff is working towards a qualification and one staff is unqualified.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Mousehole Staff Day Nursery provides high quality nursery education which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a sound understanding of child development and the foundation stage, they manage the children in a calm, gentle and attentive manner. The staff have an easy rapport and warm relationships with the children. The nursery is organised to create an interesting learning environment, encouraging children's independence. Assessments are used well to build steadily on children's progress and staff are skilled at adapting the activity to the child's level of understanding.

Very good resources and practical activities are offered with clear aims and purpose. Good topic based planning is linked to all areas of learning, however the use of natural and living things are not sufficiently planned for. Staff are positive role models and interact well with children to support and enhance their play.

Leadership and management is very good. The staff team work well together clear in their roles and responsibilities. There is a strong commitment to the professional development of the staff . They are aware of their strengths and weaknesses and act to make improvements. The strong leadership ensures there are good support systems in place and that the nursery ethos of providing a positive and child led environment is effective.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Good information is given to parents about the nursery and useful guidance to continue helping their child discuss the topics they are learning about. Parents have regular meetings with staff to discuss their child's progress and are encouraged to borrow resources form nursery. Parental feedback is used to monitor and improve the service and education offered.

What is being done well?

- Staff use excellent strategies to promote good behaviour and consideration for others. Their calm, polite and attentive manner sets a very good example for children. Children are happy and work well together in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Staff interact with children to support and enhance their play.
- The children have access to a good range of quality resources which they are encouraged to access independently. The local community resources are used well to develop children's physical, imagination, creative skills and their knowledge and understanding of the world.
- The staff plan worthwhile practical activities often linked to a topic and an outing covering all areas of learning, which are organised with a clear purpose. Staff's effective questioning encourage children to think.

- The partnership with parents is well fostered, a high value is placed on parents opinion and suggestions for improving the service. Parents are kept very well informed of their child's progress. There is a good range of books which they can borrow to share with their child at home.

What needs to be improved?

- planning, to include sufficient opportunities for children to explore natural objects and living things.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/a

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good relationships with each other and are happy to approach adults for support. They talk freely about their homes and families. Children respond well to the familiar routines and behave well, they are busy, motivated and polite. Staff sustain children's interest by positive interaction to enhance their play. Children are encouraged to be independent and have good self help skills. They make choices in their play.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak confidently, initiate conversation and use language to explore real and imagined experiences. They practise letter formation through the effective practical activities offered e.g. sand trays, finger tracing and have access to writing materials at all times. Children listen well and enjoy stories, staff are good story tellers, their good use of props and sign language engage the children and sustain their interest. Practical activities introduce new vocabulary e.g. stem.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are encouraged to recognise numerals by playing number games with dice, good use of displays and access to a number line. They are given activities to help them problem solve. They use their growing knowledge of number to know which number comes before and after a given number up to 10. They count reliably up to 10 with confidence. Children are involved in activities that encourage them to talk about and compare shapes and sizes, they use size and positional language.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Good topic based activities help children learn about people in the community and transport, these are linked with an outing using the excellent local resources. Children are beginning to gain an awareness of a variety of cultures and beliefs through worthwhile topics and activities. Children design and make their own creations and have independent access to materials. They are beginning to understand past and present through discussion. Use of natural materials and living things is limited.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move freely with confidence and pleasure and negotiate the pre school space successfully. They enjoy using their body during music and movement and in response to rhyme. The children are introduced to yoga. They are able to use tools effectively e.g. scissors, pencils, glue sticks, jugs, they use them with skill and control. Children have bodily awareness, they use the toilet, wash their hands and have a drink when they are thirsty, they dress themselves with confidence.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children can differentiate colour and experiment with different painting techniques, linking this to knowledge about famous artists and visits to art galleries. Children's imagination and self expression is encouraged. They have independent access to creative media and experiment with a variety of malleable materials. Children enjoy nursery rhymes and confidently create movement in response to words, they sing enthusiastically and have favourite songs.

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:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- the planning, to include more opportunities for children to explore natural objects and living things.

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.