



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 316025

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	07/03/2005
Inspector Name	Sarah Taylor

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Croft House Nursery
Setting Address	Bridge Street Horwich Bolton Lancashire BL6 7BT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Croft House Nursery Limited 4846744
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Croft House Nursery Limited
Address	Croft House Bridge Street, Horwich Bolton Lancashire BL6 7BT

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Croft House Nursery operates from a semi detached property in the Horwich area of Bolton. The nursery opened in the autumn of 1989 and is registered to care for 60 children. There are currently 86 on roll of whom 37 receive funding for nursery education. Opening times are Monday to Friday from 08.00 until 18.00.

Parking is available in the nursery grounds for staff and parents along with an overflow car park to the side of the nursery. Ramps are available to enable easy access into the building. The local shops, library, leisure centre, church, nature walk, playing field and park are all within walking distance.

There are five rooms used for childcare and outdoor play can be accessed from each room into a secure grassed, flagged and soft play area. The nursery has two guinea pigs and some goldfish.

The owner of the nursery is a qualified teacher and all staff employed hold relevant qualifications and experience in childcare or are working towards qualifications.

At present there are 37 funded children, aged three and four years old, attending the nursery. The nursery supports children with additional needs and with English as an additional language.

The nursery receives support from the Early Years Partnership. The nursery was awarded a Quality Counts Award from the National Day Nursery Association in November 2003.

How good is the Day Care?

Croft House Nursery provides a good standard of care. Staff are appropriately qualified and experienced in childcare practice. Ratios are always maintained, which ensures that children are well supported. Staff regularly attend training. The premises, including the outdoor area, are safe and secure. Staff maintain a warm and welcoming environment through attractive displays and friendly attitudes. A range of age appropriate toys and equipment is available. Documentation is detailed and stored securely.

Staff ensure the safety of the children. Risk assessments are carried out, especially when children are taken out of the provision. Children are always supervised. Health and hygiene is promoted and healthy snacks and drinks are offered. Children are

treated with respect and activities are made available to all children. There are resources which promote positive images. Staff are confident to put the Area Child Protection Committee guidance into practice.

Children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual needs are planned for using either Birth to Three Matters or the Foundation Stage stepping stones. Effective methods are in place for monitoring and evaluating children's progress. There is a good range of activities for children to choose from. The outdoor area and its effective use is being developed. Staff provide activities and equipment to stimulate children's sensory development. Natural and real items are used. Staff challenge and support children through their use of language. Children are encouraged to use manners. Staff provide a positive role model for children. Behaviour is dealt with in a positive way and praise is offered.

Parents are encouraged to be a part of the group. There is a good range of information for the parents to access about the provision and about childcare issues. Parents can be a part of the planning process. There are regular parents' meetings for parents to discuss the progress of their child.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the nursery were asked to complete actions relating to standard 6 (Safety) and standard 12 (Partnership with parents). The staff have taken steps to ensure that low level glass is made safe and that fire doors are not obstructed. This helps towards maintaining a safe environment for the children.

The contact details for Ofsted are also included in the information for parents. This ensures that parents can contact the regulator with any concerns regarding the care of their child.

What is being done well?

- Children are spoken to with respect and the staff are good role models of behaviour. Positive behaviour management strategies ensure that the children learn right from wrong. Children use manners with staff, each other and with people outside the provision.
- Children are engaged in worthwhile activities. Staff ensure children gain much from activities by planning effectively and offering appropriate support and challenge. Staff use language skilfully to challenge children and enhance vocabulary.
- Staff ensure a wide range of equipment is available to support activities offered. Equipment is well maintained and is age appropriate. The staff provide real items for children to play with; for example, milk cartons, spoons, jugs. Natural resources are used with the children; for example, logs, hay, shells. Equipment is added to, to provide variety and choice.
- Staff give high regard to the health and safety of the children. Policies and procedures are in place and can be seen in operation. Children are well protected and are supervised at all times.

- Parents are welcomed into the provision. They receive a good range of information about the provision and issues surrounding child care. They are encouraged to be part of their child's care through regular parents' meetings, information meetings and information sent home.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Children are offered experiences that develop their sensory appreciation. Staff use smells and sounds to create moods in different areas of the setting. For example, upon entry, children are greeted with calming classical music and the smell of lavender. The Ducklings room is enriched by the use of mobiles, glitter balls, coloured lighting, and colours. Music is used to create different moods. The children are offered throws and rugs with different textures and the displays on the wall reflect the use of the senses. In the Butterflies room mobiles, music, colours and textures are used effectively and children are encouraged to explain the changes they notice. In the Busy Bee room and Ocean room the children use binoculars to observe wildlife in the garden. There are mobiles and a three dimensional, textured display is used. Music is used to create mood, such as classical music during activities and Salsa during dance and singing. In the Wise Owl room there are attractive, interactive displays for children to touch. Music is used to create mood. (Standard 3)

What needs to be improved?

- the further development of the outdoor area, which has been identified by the provider as part of the ongoing review process.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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	
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Std	Recommendation
4	Further develop the outside area.

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.