



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 129002

DfES Number: 549989

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	14/03/2005
Inspector Name	Christine Jacqueline Davies

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	ABC Day Nursery Group
Setting Address	1 Melfield Gardens London SE6 3AH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	ABC Nursery Group
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	ABC Nursery Group
Address	u/a u/a

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

ABC Nursery in Beckenham has been registered since 1995 and is located in Melfield Gardens just off Beckenham Hill in London SE6 . The nursery is accommodated in a prefabricated single story building, which is adjacent to the Beckenham Hill railway line and close to all local amenities. The areas used by the nursery comprises of 5 group rooms, children's bathrooms/changing area, kitchen, staff room and office. There is also access to an enclosed outdoor area. The nursery operates Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 18.00 and opens 51 weeks of the year, only closing for bank holidays and one week over the Christmas period.

It is registered to provide care for 38 children aged 0-5 years and of these not more than 14 children may be under 2 years. The nursery offers full and part-time places and there are presently 33 children on roll, nine of whom are funded 3 year olds and two are aged 4 years. There are no funded children with identified special needs or English as an additional language. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

ABC Day Nursery provision is acceptable, however children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses in the provision. There are some significant weaknesses relating to teaching. Staff show a limited understanding of the early learning goals which hinders the challenges set for children. Staff observe children on a regular basis but do not use this information effectively to plan what children should do next. Group activities are generally well presented but are not always extended to provide sufficient challenges, particularly in aspects of mathematics and physical development.

The children are confident, enjoy their activities and are able to respond appropriately to stated boundaries of behaviour. Children are encouraged to be independent and to select resources for themselves. They are keen to communicate with staff and their peers and show an interest in the world around them. However staff should provide more opportunities so that the children are able to develop skills of focused observation.

Leadership and management of the nursery has significant weaknesses. Although the manager is aware of her role and responsibilities, a limited knowledge of the early learning goals does not enable the effective monitoring and evaluation of provision for nursery education. The lack of a systematic review of practice means that staff are also unaware of weaknesses in the provision.

Partnership with parents is generally good. Information regarding policies, curriculum plans and progress reports are available to parents. However there are no formal discussions held about progress reports unless a parent specifically requests a meeting with the staff member concerned. Opportunities for parents to meet with staff on a more formal basis to discuss their children's progress should be improved.

What is being done well?

- Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour which are clearly conveyed.
- Children are able to express themselves clearly and confidently.
- Children are able to count independently.
- Children are developing good self-care skills.

What needs to be improved?

- staff's knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals to ensure that activities are appropriate to the children's stage of development and provide sufficient challenge, particularly in the area of mathematics and physical

development

- planning and evaluation of what children have learned and what to do next following a specifically planned group activity
- observation and assessment of children's learning and apply a consistent approach

What has improved since the last inspection?
This is the first funded inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development. They confidently express their needs and ideas and relate well to each other and adults. They are independent and confident to try new activities which helps to promote their learning.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are making generally good progress in communication language and literacy. They communicate well, are confident speakers and engage easily in conversations with each other and adults. The children learn that print carries meaning, notice print in their environment via posters and signs and are developing confidence in writing. However, they have insufficient opportunities to write spontaneously and use writing for various purposes.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

Children's progress in mathematical development has some significant weaknesses. There are a good range of resources available and children are able to see numbers as labels in their environment through charts and friezes. However staff's understanding of how to use practical and everyday activities and routines to develop children's mathematical skills needs to be improved.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is generally good. They are developing an interest in the natural world, but are not provided with sufficient opportunities to explore and investigate objects. They are confident designers and use a variety of materials. The staff provide children with opportunities to experience and use technology such as the computer. However, the planning and scope of the opportunities need to be broadened.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

Children's progress in physical development has some significant weaknesses. Children are able to move confidently with reasonable coordination and control, however staff need to extend children's learning in this area and provide more opportunities to use large outdoor equipment. Children are developing good hygiene practices, however opportunities are missed to develop children's understanding of health and bodily awareness.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children's progress in creative development is generally good. They show imaginative expression through a range of activities but the organisation of the room limits the effective use of some of these materials by the children.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses. The next inspection will take place in one to two years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- Improve staff's knowledge and understanding of the Early Learning Goals to ensure that activities are appropriate to the children's stage of development and provide sufficient challenge, particularly in the area of mathematics and physical development.
- Improve the planning and evaluation of what children have learned and what to do next following a specifically planned group activity.
- Improve the observation and assessment of children's learning and apply a consistent approach.

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.