



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 402187

DfES Number: 542234

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/12/2003
Inspector Name Janette Elaina Langford

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Ashingdon Preschool
Setting Address The Cricket Pavilion
King George's Playing Field
Ashingdon
Essex
SS4 3UZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ashingdon Preschool Ltd 3803490

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ashingdon Preschool Ltd
Address 1 Hillside
Hockley
Essex

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

Ashingdon Pre-School opened in 1999. It operates from rooms within a cricket pavilion on a recreational playing field, within walking distance of local schools and shops. The pre-school serves the local and wider area.

There are currently 64 children aged from two to five years on roll. This includes 22 funded three year olds and 17 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports a small number of children with special needs. There are no children currently attending who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:30 until 12:00 and 12:30 until 15:00.

Five part time and three full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Three staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Ashingdon Pre-school is good. It enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in most areas of learning and generally good progress in their mathematical development.

Staff have excellent teaching skills, seizing every opportunity to develop children's learning in all areas. Activities are planned and aimed at different levels of ability. However, the written plans do not clearly link to the early learning goals and the stepping stones and do not show all activities provided. Differentiation is not clearly defined in the planning although it is seen in practice. Observation and assessment records are used effectively to help plan the next steps for children. Children with special needs are supported effectively.

The two supervisors work well together - complementing each other with their individual strengths and skills. They are both enthusiastic and motivate staff well, identifying their training needs and encouraging their personal development. The supervisors are committed to the improvement of care and education for all children. They seek advice and support from the EYDCP and PSLA.

Staff have built up excellent relationships with parents. There is good information available to parents regarding funding and the activities provided and newsletters are sent regularly. Parents are given questionnaires to complete about their child so they can share what they know with the staff. Written reports are prepared and given to parents when their child leaves the provision but interim reports are given verbally.

What is being done well?

- Children show care and consideration for each other, for example, they offer each other pieces of fruit from plates and share very well.
- Children thoroughly enjoy books. They have access to large books and show each other the pictures, talking through the story and adding to it with imagination.
- There are many opportunities for children to gain awareness and respect for other cultures by comparing and contrasting. For example they learn about different ways in which Christmas is celebrated by making decorations from Norway, and talking about different names for Father Christmas.

What needs to be improved?

- the written plans to accurately reflect what is already in practice
- the frequency of planned activities to help children to develop an

understanding simple calculation

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made very good progress since the last inspection. Staff have reviewed the system for sharing children's assessment records with parents and have introduced a system for identifying the training requirements of staff. Resources for musical instruments and multicultural equipment have been increased.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are very confident learners and show enthusiasm for new experiences. They are developing their independence, select activities that interest them and can manage some developmentally appropriate tasks. Children talk freely about their homes, community and friends. They seek out others to share experiences, initiate interactions with other people and ask staff for help. Children's behaviour is very good, they are learning to share, take turns and can negotiate with one another.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers and are developing a good vocabulary. They can make their feelings and ideas understood and communicate their needs to others. Children enjoy activities that reinforce pre-writing and writing skills and most children can recognise their names and some letters. They enjoy rhyming words in stories and games. There is a great enthusiasm for books shown by children, they enjoy being read to and exploring the pictures and words themselves.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy activities that develop their interest in numbers as labels and for counting. They use some number names and language spontaneously in their play. Some children can count up to ten and know about 'bigger' numbers. Children are developing their understanding of space shape and measure through practical activities and more able children talk about and match shapes in the environment. There are fewer activities for children to learn simple calculation through play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have strong exploratory and investigation skills. They show an interest in both natural and man made objects. There are frequent opportunities for children to develop their design and construction skills and children enjoy learning about information and communication technology. Children are developing a sense of time and place and can remember significant events. They have opportunities to develop a good understanding of different cultures and beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have daily opportunities to develop their physical skills and move in a range of ways. They are learning to manage their bodies to create intended movements and can negotiate the space available. Children are developing an understanding of some healthy practices and the reasons behind them. Planned activities give children opportunities to develop their hand-eye co-ordination skills and manipulate materials to achieve a planned effect.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have many opportunities to develop their creative skills through a range of activities. They enjoy listening to music and singing songs - both in groups and to themselves. Children are able to express their feelings and ideas through paint, collage and modelling. Children have good imaginations and are developing their confidence in role play to act out real and imagined experiences.

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

- improve the system for written plans so they accurately reflect what is already in practice
- increase the frequency of planned activities to help children to develop an understanding simple calculation

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.