



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 224176

DfES Number: 517840

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/03/2003
Inspector Name Kathryn Mary Harding

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type
Setting Name Rainbow Nursery
Setting Address Shrewsbury Family Centre
Richmond House, Harlescott Grange
SHREWSBURY
Shropshire
SY1 3QG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Catherine Jones

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

Rainbow Nursery is a self-supporting group with charitable status. It is run by a committee of parents, and was first opened in 1993. The setting serves children aged 2 years and six months to 5 years old from all areas of Shrewsbury.

The nursery is open 41 weeks per year during term time, Mondays and Fridays from 13:30 to 16:00 and from 9:30 to 12:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are currently 12 funded four year olds and 8 three years olds. There are no children with English as an additional language. The nursery offers support to children with special educational needs.

There are five staff. Four are full time, of whom two hold an appropriate qualification. The setting is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and receives support from the Early Years Development Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The nursery education is very good and children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. Children are taught very effectively and staff work very well together with parents and other professionals to meet the needs of the children. They have a very secure knowledge of the foundation stage curriculum and the early learning goals. Staff extend children's learning by encouraging the children to think and asking open-ended questions. Staff work very well to include all children and draw up individual plans for children with special educational needs. They provide a wide range of planned and spontaneous learning opportunities and ensure children's progression through observation and interactions. All staff contribute to planning the curriculum and staff work well with parents to ensure the children are developing in all areas.

The leadership and management of the setting is very good and staff work very well together as a team. Staff work with parents and other professionals are accessed, to ensure that all children are included and that children's needs are met. All staff receive regular supervision and annual appraisal and as the team are well established, communication with each other is very effective. Staff attend regular training and this is seen as a priority.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff work hard to ensure that parents are kept well informed about their child's progress and the next stage of development. There are plenty of opportunities for parents to be involved in the life of the nursery with regular parent volunteers in the nursery and frequent social events being held. An informative notice board is available containing information on matters such as speech and language difficulties.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children are keen and interested to learn.
- Staff's clear understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and early learning goals leads to well planned activities which sustain children's interests and efforts.
- Staff set challenges for all children, including those with special educational needs, that increase their thinking and skills.
- Staff make good use of the local environment and resources to foster children's interest in the natural world.
- Staff work well together and are good role models and provide an emotionally secure learning environment for all children.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● no issues identified

What has improved since the last inspection?
Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. Both key issues have been dealt with and parents now receive written instructions on letter formation if work is taken home and staff send out written reports to parents indicating their child's next stage of development. This has resulted in more effective communication with parents and parents being more informed about their child and the next stage of development.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Personal, social and emotional development is very good and is given a high priority within the nursery. Children are keen and interested to learn. They concentrate and persevere when making models from re-cycled materials. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and continually praise their achievements. Children demonstrate personal independence and have lots of opportunities to respond to cultural events.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Communication, Language and Literacy development is very good. Three and four year olds listen well to stories and predict the story line and what will happen next. They confidently sing familiar rhymes and make up alternative endings with obvious delight. They enjoy a variety of books and stories. Staff extend children's learning by introducing new vocabulary linked to the theme. Children are encouraged to write their own names, form the letters correctly and some can do this unaided.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's mathematical development is very good. Staff use both planned and spontaneous opportunities to count with the children in everyday practical activities. Children have explored different patterns and linked these with themes. They have many opportunities to recognise shape and four year olds confidently name shapes, and their number of sides and corners. Children are becoming familiar with number rhymes and explore simple concepts in a practical way.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. They have many opportunities to use their senses to explore and investigate. Features of the local environment are looked at. Similarities and differences are recorded when looking at weather changes. Children discuss their families and past, present and future events. They have many opportunities to look at different festivals and cultures. Positive images of diversity are evident throughout the nursery.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's physical development is very good. They are skilful users of a wide variety of tools and equipment freely accessible to them. They access a wide range of large and small equipment to develop fine manipulative and gross motor skills. Children are developing a good awareness of a healthy life style and the importance of exercise and diet. A fitness programme is followed, enabling the children to develop their skills of balance, co-ordination and movement.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children's creative development is very good. They have plenty of planned and spontaneous opportunities to explore colour, texture, shape and music. Children have many opportunities to respond to what they see, touch or feel with their observational drawings and pictures. Children confidently recite simple songs either in a group situation or individually. They play imaginatively in the hospital area and convincingly take on different roles of nurse, doctor and injured patient.	
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:

- no issues identified

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.