



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY224700

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/11/2004
Inspector Name	Joanne Graham

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Bramleys Day Nursery and Nursery School
Setting Address	Masons Court Ardington Oxfordshire OX12 8TP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Bramleys Nurseries
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Bramleys Nurseries
Address	The Old School School Road Ardington Oxfordshire OX12 8PN

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

Bramleys Day Nursery and Nursery School was established in 1990 and is part of the Bramleys Nursery Group. It operates from seven rooms in a purpose built building in the village of Ardington.

There are currently 120 children on roll. This includes 33 funded 3 and 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs. There are no children currently attending who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00.

There are currently 3 part time and 18 full time staff work with the children. Eleven staff hold suitable early years qualifications and 10 are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the local authority early years department.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Bramleys Day Nursery and Nursery School provides good quality nursery education overall which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Children make very good progress in communication, language and literacy, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical and creative development.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff have a generally good knowledge of the stepping stones. They plan a varied and fun learning environment for children to experience a wide choice of activities. This develops the children's predictive and curiosity skills well. Opportunities for children to understand calculation and to count in every day situations are limited. The children's behaviour is poor at times, especially during changes to the routine and they can be unkind to one another. Staff are inconsistent at managing this behaviour and monitoring which activities the children use at length. The setting supports children with special needs well and staff make provision to ensure children are included and independently supported.

Leadership and management are generally good. The manager supports and encourages training and is keen to improve the provision. The co-ordinator is allocated time to plan activities. The staff have not arranged key worker groups since the new team has been formed. Support to develop and improve staff's knowledge of their roles and duties, is sometimes lacking.

Partnership with parents is very good. This contributes well to their child's progress towards the early learning goals. Staff inform parents of the group's activities with regular newsletters, notice board and daily communication. Parents have regular opportunities to share their observations and discuss their children's progress. The introduction of 'Mattie Monkey's' visits to the children's homes improves and develops links with home and nursery well. The diary records his activities and children share with the group.

What is being done well?

- Children listen with enjoyment and respond to stories. They are beginning to understand that text has meaning and are encouraged to handle books correctly. Children are confident and articulate speakers and enjoy sharing their news. They listen well and have regard to others when they are speaking. They recognise their own names and most of the children write their name with confidence.
- Children find out about their own culture and beliefs and those of other people. They enjoy dressing up in different national costumes. They are able to use the computer and mouse competently and the suitable software extends their learning. The children enjoy 'packing' their suitcase to go on

holiday to a hot country. They think about what they will need to keep them safe and cool in the sun.

- The children use mark making implements, construction sets and malleable materials with increasing control. They understand that equipment and tools need to be used safely. Children move confidently and with good control. They kick, throw and catch balls. The obstacle course develops their skills to climb over and through, to balance along a narrow beam and to jump in between the tyres.
- The children get pleasure from the variety of creative opportunities and develop their skills in cutting, sticking, painting and drawing, which they choose from the creative workstation. Their work is valued and displayed attractively. They develop their imaginative skills well and they enjoy 'driving' to the shops and feeding their 'babies' when they arrive. Good resources aid and support their play.

What needs to be improved?

- the activities to develop the children's understanding of calculation and to use counting in everyday situations
- the management of children's behaviour and reinforcement of respecting others
- the organisation of children and direction for staff, particularly during changes to the routine.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Generally good progress has been made since the last inspection. The programme for physical development has improved considerably. The children have a dance teacher who visits weekly and more resources have been purchased for the outside area. Staff plan activities to provide sufficient challenge to develop the children's gross and fine motor skills, both inside and outdoors, including dancing with ribbons and following the obstacle course.

There is a quiet area where the children can access books independently. This is attractive and cosy and the children use it regularly. They enjoy sharing a book with their friends and with staff.

Staff introduced a new system to record the children's development in line with the local authority's advice. The group monitor and record the children's achievements on observation cards and staff transfer this to their assessment records. The new team have not used these records and there are no key worker groups.

The children are able to access a computer and suitable software regularly. This develops their skills with understanding how things work and operating equipment properly. Staff do not monitor the usage of this and some children are unable to access the computer when they would like to do so due to others not sharing the

equipment.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are eager to participate in planned activities and confidently self select their own choices. They are forming relationships with their peers and staff. Children are independent and persist with difficult tasks. They take care of their personal needs, such as washing their hands, changing into their indoor shoes and dress themselves well. Their behaviour is poor at times, especially when there are changes to the routine.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are confident to communicate with staff and one another through gestures, signs and talk. Children listen well to each other and the staff, showing awareness of the listener. They enjoy stories and handle books with care. They begin to recognise some familiar words and their own names through labelling of furniture and equipment and their name cards. Most children are writing their own name and correctly forming some letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children show a developing understanding of naming and matching colours and numbers. There are missed opportunities to reinforce and develop the children's counting skills and understanding of calculation in everyday situations. Practical activities provide opportunities for children to develop their problem solving skills, especially with the water play and mixing the paint.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show an interest in their surroundings, notice changes in the weather and ask questions about their observations. They learn about their environment by using their senses, especially feeling and smelling the sun cream. They confidently share past and present events in their lives. The children have a good understanding of their own culture and beliefs and those of other people. The children access everyday technology regularly.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are set challenges to develop their skills inside and outdoors. They dance with ribbons, kick and catch balls, negotiate bicycles, balance, and climb and travel over and under objects on the obstacle course. Staff support and encourage new skills, such as helping children to throw and catch and walk along the balancing beam. Children handle tools, materials and objects safely and with increasing control. They have a wide range of opportunities to practice and refine their skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children participate in songs and rhymes eagerly. They enjoy the opportunity of free expression in role play; developing their imaginative skills well whilst driving their 'babies' to the shops in their car and preparing dinner of chicken and potatoes. Children independently access a wide range of art and craft activities developing their creative skills, especially sticking, painting and drawing. Children experience a variety of music and match movement to this regularly.	
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

- create activities to develop the children's understanding of calculation and to use counting in everyday situations
- improve staff's knowledge of managing children's behaviour and reinforce how to respect others
- improve and develop the organisation of children and direction for staff, particularly during changes to the routine.

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.