



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY217093

DfES Number: 539918

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 06/09/2004
Inspector Name Christine Holmes

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Horn End Nursery
Setting Address Lammascote Road
 Stafford
 Staffordshire
 ST16 3TA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Deborah Falshaw

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

Horn End Nursery Stafford opened in March 2002. It operates in a single storey building situated on Lammascote Road close to the Asda store in the centre of Stafford.

The building consists of kitchen, toilet facilities, interconnecting group rooms and an enclosed outdoor play area. The nursery serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 99 children from 4 months to 5 years on roll. This includes sixteen funded three-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 until 18:00.

There are twenty staff who work with the children. Most have Early Years Qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The proprietor is a qualified teacher.

How good is the Day Care?

Horn End Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. Children build warm and trusting relationships with staff enabling them to be settled and secure in the nursery environment. The nursery is well organised: space and resources are used imaginatively to create a stimulating, orderly and supportive environment for children. Staff have a clear understanding of the importance of equality issues for young children and meet their individual needs well. There is an extensive range of resources available, including a range of toys, which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The staff are guided by policies and procedures that are mostly complete and effective.

All areas for promoting health and hygiene are good and are reinforced through the daily routine. Healthy eating is given high priority and promoted very well. The premises are safe and secure, but staff are not always vigilant in identifying potential hazards in the nursery.

All staff demonstrate a sound understanding of how children learn and how they can help this process. They use developmental records to inform planning to meet children's individual learning needs. They provide a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities, which promotes children's learning and imagination in order to give them a wide range of experiences. Children are involved and interested in chosen and structured activities that provide stimulation and challenge. All staff give good emphasis to positively promote children's self esteem and good behaviour through clear instructions, praise, compliments and encouragement. Children are developing confidence, they behave well, are learning to take turns and share and show consideration for others.

Staff develop friendly, trusting relationships with parents. Parents are listened to and kept informed about the nursery and their children. Parents are given information to involve them in the nursery plans and reinforce their children's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff develop good relationships with the children. They are attentive and have good understanding of children's overall needs. They plan activities appropriate for the children's age and stage of development which ensures children's individual needs are met well.
- High priority is given to promoting children's self-esteem by offering regular praise and encouraging good behaviour.
- An extensive range of toys and activities are available, enabling children to make progress in all areas of learning. They play confidently with a good selection of play equipment from which they choose freely.
- Staff provide care for children with special needs and liaise with parents and other professionals to ensure that individual needs are well met.
- Partnership with parents is good. Staff care for children in accordance with their parent's wishes and make time to share information every day.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements to ensure all potential hazards inside and outside the nursery are identified and minimised
- the child protection policy to include the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff

- the procedure for lost children.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
6	Provide an action plan that demonstrates how risk assessment arrangements will ensure all potential hazards are identified and minimised.	02/10/2004
13	Ensure that the child protection procedure for the nursery complies with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures, in this case, the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.	02/10/2004
14	Devise a statement of procedure to be followed if a child is lost.	02/10/2004

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Horn End Nursery offers high quality provision overall which helps children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals, in all areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Children are achieving their potential as young learners because the staff have an excellent understanding of how children learn and how they can help them progress. They build warm and trusting relationships with the children and give high priority to developing children's confidence and self esteem. Staff work well as a team, they are enthusiastic, committed and use a variety of methods to introduce new skills and knowledge. Staff engage children in conversations and consistently question all children effectively to encourage them to think, communicate, and help them move on in their learning.

Staff keep records of children's progress through ongoing assessment and observation. They use this information to plan what children need to learn next. Activities are effectively presented to provide access and appropriate challenge for all children.

The leadership and management of the pre-school are very good. The setting fulfils its aim of creating a caring secure environment, providing a well-planned and structured early years curriculum. The success of the setting is due to strong leadership and a well-structured management system. These ensure a shared understanding of good early years practice and a commitment to ongoing staff development. There is a strong commitment to continual improvement. They know their strengths and weaknesses and act upon their evaluations to make improvements.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are kept well informed about the provision and their child's progress through parent's handbook, newsletters and daily exchanges of information. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning at home and in the nursery.

What is being done well?

- The staff give strong emphasis to building children's confidence and self-esteem, supporting them to develop positive relationships with adults and each other.
- Children are eager and motivated to learn. They have growing self confidence and relate well to each other.
- Children have good listening and speaking skills. Staff value what children say and do; effectively model and reinforce language and promote enjoyment of stories and books.
- Good outdoor provision enables children to be physically active and

challenged during the day. Staff give children a good level of support to develop their skills and independence when using the outside equipment.

- Staff work very well together as a team to provide a friendly, supportive environment for the children and their parents.

What needs to be improved?

- the range of opportunities for children to write for different purposes.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children respond positively to staff, develop good social skills and behave well. They are becoming confident and eager learners. They are keen to join in with activities, such as how many scoops of sand are needed to fill the bucket. Their confidence and independence is promoted through sensitive support of the staff and easy access to resources. Children are provided with a number of opportunities to explore and to develop an understanding of different cultures.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children engage easily in conversations with each other and adults. Staff continually introduce new vocabulary through well-planned topic work such as `opposites`. They extend children's responses by encouraging them to explain their thinking. Children enjoy books and listen well to stories and know print carries meaning. They recognise their first names and are beginning to write these correctly with well-formed letters, but writing within role play is not always extended.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing an enjoyment of numbers. They practise their skills during their play and everyday activities such as laying tables for snack. They are encouraged to say how many more are needed and how many are left. Children are sorting, matching and sequencing. They benefit from good individual support to help them develop and extend their awareness of weight, capacity and position through the use of resources such as sand. They recognise and experiment with shapes.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to develop and satisfy their curiosity through first hand practical experiences. They observe living things in the mini beast area of the nursery garden and handle a range of unusual animals brought into the nursery. They are introduced to a range of people who help us, including RAF personnel, police and fire officers. Children use a variety of construction equipment. They frequently use paper, card, re-cycled materials, scissors, glue and tape to make models.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Good access to a creative outdoor provision enables children to be physically active during the day. Children are set challenges to develop their skills of running, stopping, climbing and balancing. They are gaining a good sense of space and control when riding wheeled toys and parking them in parking bays. They demonstrate good cutting skills and show increasing control and care when using pencils and cutlery.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children benefit from regular music and dance sessions with a visiting professional company. They are acquiring a wide repertoire of songs, which they sing with confidence. Children participate enthusiastically using their imagination in role-play activities and with small world toys. They are encouraged to explore texture and colour through a varied range of media such as paint, water and gloop.

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:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report but consideration should be given to further develop the range of opportunities for children to write for different purposes.

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.

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.