



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 260348

DfES Number: 540018

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	07/10/2004
Inspector Name	Sally Ann Smith

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care, Creche Day Care
Setting Name	The Croft at Total Fitness
Setting Address	The Parklands Newcastle Road, Trent Vale Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST4 6NW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Total Fitness
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Total Fitness
Address	The Parklands Newcastle Road, Trent Vale Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST4 6NW

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

The Croft at Total Fitness Nursery and Crèche opened in 2001. It operates from a self-contained unit with four children's group rooms and own facilities, at Total Fitness Health Club's premises at the Parklands in Newcastle. The Nursery and Crèche serve the local area.

There are currently 66 children from 0 to 5 years on roll. This includes six funded three-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round, except Bank Holidays and one week at Christmas. Sessions are from 07:30 until 18:00.

There are 13 staff working with the children and a supernumerary person in charge. All of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor 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 Croft at Total Fitness Nursery provides high quality provision overall which helps children make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good and staff work together to provide an environment which maintains children's interest. Staff have a good understanding of the Foundation Stage and complete regular observations and assessments on the children to inform planning. All staff are involved in planning which is imaginative and provides breadth and balance to cover the six areas of learning. Activities are adapted to meet the needs of all children and regularly evaluated to ensure that learning objectives have been achieved.

Children's behaviour is good and they are encouraged to take turns in talking when part of a group. Children respond well to the clear boundaries and consistency of staff and receive regular praise and encouragement. Staff offer children choices about their play, taking time to encourage, reassure and support children individually to encourage them to participate in a variety of activities. Interaction with the children is good and staff give clear explanations.

Leadership and management are very good and staff are encouraged to attend training courses to update and consolidate knowledge. The nursery benefits from having a committed staff group who work well together. They evaluate their practice through appraisals, monitoring and regular meetings. The person-in-charge makes staff feel valued and welcomes their contributions and ideas.

Partnerships with parents are very good and staff are friendly and approachable. Children belong to a key group led by a member of staff who ensures parents receive regular information about their child's progress and learning. They have opportunities to share what they know about their child at open evenings and receive regular newsletters and development profiles.

What is being done well?

- Staff use effective teaching methods and give clear explanations to help children learn. Staff encourage children's independence and all areas of children's personal, social and emotional development are promoted well.
- Staff provide the children with an interesting and stimulating range of activities to promote all areas of their learning. Children are given choices about their play which encourages their imagination.
- Children work well in groups and independently and show care and consideration for others. They respond well to praise and encouragement and being given additional responsibilities such as "helper of the day".
- Expectations for children's learning is high and the children's progress is

regularly assessed to help inform planning and ensure that the six areas of learning are effectively addressed.

- Partnerships with parents are good and they are well informed about the education and their child's progress. They have opportunities to be involved with their child's learning.

What needs to be improved?

- visual aids and information for parents and children who speak English as an additional language.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and happy, interacting positively with staff and each other. Their personal independence is very good and they attempt to dress and undress themselves and confidently help themselves to drinks from the water dispenser. Children are clear about expectations and boundaries and respond well to praise and encouragement. A nominated "helper of the day" encourages children to be responsible and cooperative. Children are keen to share their personal experiences with the group.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's language is developing well and activities, especially at circle and story time, enable children to build on their vocabulary and consolidate their understanding of new words. Children use story sacks, props and dressing up clothes and recreate characters such as "Little Red Riding Hood". They have many opportunities to write and recognise their own names and read labels around the room, although there are no familiar words or labels in different languages.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Everyday routines and play opportunities consolidate children's understanding of shape, size and quantity. Children have made their own domino games cutting out ladybirds and matching the dots and had "snail races" predicting which snail would be first or last. Children have recently completed an "Olympics" theme to discuss positional language, awarding medals for first, second and third place in races. Children sing songs to develop their understanding of counting up and down.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn about their own environment and the people who live there. They look at patterns in their surroundings such as bricks in buildings, paving slabs and are aware of the changing seasons. They collect leaves, twigs, acorns and conkers to create a nature table and provide a focus for discussion. Very good opportunities are provided for children to learn about different festivals and cultures which are diverse, interesting and meaningful including Yom Kippur and Ramadan.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children manipulate small and large objects and are gaining increasing skills in using scissors. They confidently handle tools such as glue spreaders, paint brushes and knives to spread their own sandwiches. Children manoeuvre bikes with control negotiating stationary objects and stopping and starting appropriately. They regularly participate in music and movement sessions lead by a dance teacher where they gain skills in balancing and co-ordination such as hopping and skipping.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore texture and colour and they experiment by mixing paints together in paint palettes to make different shades. Children also practise mixing paints to create different colour skin tones. Children use their imagination in music and dance and interpret the music with bodily movements pretending to be big cats, tiny mice, snakes or crocodiles. They participate in regular food tasting sessions and to correspond with the "Olympic" theme, have prepared and tasted Greek food.

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 improving the following;
- Increase visual aids and information to ensure that children and parents who speak English as an additional language are made to feel welcome and included.

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.