



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 135008

DfES Number: 500120

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 30/11/2004
Inspector Name Alison Joan Wadley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Abbots Manor Community Childcare Centre
Setting Address The Portacabin
Sutherland Street
London
SW1V 4JP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Westminster Children's Society 2228978 299686

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Westminster Children's Society
Address 121 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4LX

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

Abbots Manor Community Childcare Centre opened in 1997.

It is one of twelve settings managed by Westminster Children's Society, a voluntary organisation and operates from portacabins on an inner city housing estate. The nursery has access to one room divided into curriculum areas and one other room for art and craft activities. There is access to a kitchen area, toilets, office and an enclosed outdoor play area with safety surface. The setting is easily accessible by public transport.

The nursery is registered to provide 25 places for children aged two to five years old and offers places for up to 14 funded three and four year olds. There are currently 9 four year olds and 10 three year olds receiving Nursery Education Grant. This includes two children with special educational needs and nine children who have English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round from 8.30 am to 5.30pm, and sessions operate from 9:15am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.00 pm. Five full-time staff work with the children, with over fifty percent of the staff holding childcare qualifications. The nursery receives support from the Early Years Partnership Advisory Teacher to develop the Foundation Stage of the curriculum for the funded 3 & 4 year olds.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The children at Abbots Manor Community Childcare Centre are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good and managers committed to the provision of consistent and high standards achieved at the nursery. Staff are well supported, share their experience and are provided with good access to training to maintain good practice.

The quality of teaching is very good and underpinned by a strong staff team who demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to supporting children's progress. Staff are well trained and provide a particularly good selection of creative and practical activities as a foundation to children's learning across the six areas. Curriculum planning is effective and lends challenge to those children who are older or more able. It is informed successfully through staffs assessment of the children and thereby led by children's interests in a given area. Behaviour is well managed and the children secure in the nursery routine and staff's expectations for their conduct.

Staff give good support to those children for whom English is an additional language and as a result levels of communication at the nursery are good. Good links established with outside professionals and parents allows those children attending who have special educational needs to fully benefit from the curriculum.

The nursery's partnership with parents is strong and parents consulted with regard to their children's interests and abilities. They are encouraged to be involved in activities and as a result benefit their child's experience at the nursery.

What is being done well?

- The commitment and enthusiasm of staff supports and encourages children's progress throughout the foundation stage.
- provision of varied and interesting creative and practical activities successfully underpin children's learning through the stepping stones.
- staff have a strong relationship with parents and carers which particularly supports those children for whom English is an additional language and those who may have special educational needs.

What needs to be improved?

- The nursery has identified improvements to the partnership with parents to be reviewed at the next inspection.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Improvements since the last inspection have been very good and the action plan implemented well. The children now have more access to technology in various forms and as a result more support for learning across the six areas. Staff now keep comprehensive records of achievement which successfully chart individual children's progress through the stepping stones.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in personal, social and emotional development is very good. The children present as comfortable in their environment and their behaviour is good. They are learning to understand the routine and staff's expectations for their conduct. Children show confidence in accessing resources and increasingly negotiate with their peers. They show increasing consideration for different cultures and ways of life at the nursery.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in communication, language and literacy is very good. They spend considerable time demonstrating early literacy skills and are enthused and excited by the print rich environment at the nursery. The children, including those with additional languages talk with an increasingly developed vocabulary and use and enjoy books alone and with staff. They use their imagination well to recreate their experiences through role play.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in mathematics is very good and learning integrated well throughout activities. The children regularly count, compare amount, measure and weigh with increasing success. They benefit from valuable first hand practical experiences such as those in cooking, pouring water and sand play. Children problem solve using large construction materials and are increasingly able to match and make patterns using colour and form.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. They regularly explore natural and made objects, observe change and mix and match resources in an effort to build and construct. The children make good use of technology to support their growing knowledge and often discuss relevant experiences in their lives. They are beginning to gain a good understanding of their own and others cultural backgrounds and lives.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in physical development is very good and the children demonstrate increasing confidence moving around the nursery. They regularly participate in large muscle activities, moving imaginatively and with developing co-ordination. The children show an awareness of how to keep healthy often through discussions and themed activities. They are increasingly dextrous using tools and equipment which support small muscle skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in creative development is very good and is a strength of the nursery. The children participate in a range of activities imaginatively and with enthusiasm. They explore ideas through role play and whilst using varied collage, paint and natural materials in their artwork. The children respond well to sensory materials including sound and textured resources and particularly benefit from and enjoy music and movement activities.

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 key issues resulting from this inspection. The nursery should continue to consider improvements identified to their already strong partnership with parents.

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.