



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127507

DfES Number: 513126

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/07/2004
Inspector Name Beryl Witheridge

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Roundash Pre-School
Setting Address Roundash Pre-School
Hartley Primary School, Round Ash Way, Hartley
Longfield
Kent
DA3 8BT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Roundash Pre-school

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Roundash Pre-school
Address Hartley Pre-school
Round Ash Way
Hartley, Longfield
Kent
DA3 8BT

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

Roundash Pre-School opened in 1981.

The pre-school operates from one rooms in a mobile classroom in school grounds, in Hartley, Longfield. The pre-school serves the local area.

The setting opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are 09:00 - 11:45 Monday - Friday and 12:45 - 15:15 Monday - Thursday.

There are currently 87 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 31 funded three year olds and 41 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are 3 children who have special needs and the group supports 1 child who speak English as an additional language.

There are 9 staff who work with the children. Of these 7 have early years qualifications.

The setting receives support from a teacher from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). It is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Roundash Pre-school is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff have a good knowledge of the Early Learning Goals and the stepping stones. They use this and their knowledge of the children when planning activities to interest and stimulate the children's learning. They provide opportunities to extend the learning of all children, these are identified through the use of the children's records. All staff are involved in keeping the children's records and in the planning. They extend children's knowledge by encouraging new skills. Staff teach the children by example, they are excellent role models. The children are confident and well behaved. Staff provide children with a wide selection of activities, toys and equipment to meet their needs. They encourage the children to move freely between activities and support them in the use of the resources.

Leadership and management is very good. The supervisor and staff know their roles within the pre-school and have good working relationships with each other. There is excellent interaction with the children. Staff and committee meetings are held regularly and staff are able to discuss their future needs and those of the children. The staff and the committee are committed to the care and development of the children. Staff are encouraged to undertake training whenever possible.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are given written information regarding the Early Learning Goals and the proposed termly activities. Long and medium term plans are displayed on the parents notice board. Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress. Children's records are always available for parents to share. They are invited into the group to discuss their records and to have an input into the future learning for their child. Parents feel that the staff are friendly, approachable and professional.

What is being done well?

- Staff reinforce children's learning by providing them with opportunities to learn new skills, have new experiences and to build on knowledge they already have.
- The staff teach the children by example, they are good role models. Children know how to behave and understand what is acceptable and what is not.
- The children are developing an awareness and understanding of the needs of others. They show a caring attitude and a willingness to help.
- Leadership and management is good. Staff work well together and are committed to the learning and development of the children. Children receive good support.

- Staffs' understanding and use of the early learning goals, in planning, provides children with good opportunities to learn and develop.
- Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are encouraged to come into the group and take an active interest in their child's progress. Children receive continuity in all areas of their care and learning.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities in everyday activities to introduce comparative and descriptive language
- the evaluation of the activities to give an all round view, including the negatives as well as the positives.

What has improved since the last inspection?

progress since the last inspection has been very good.

The group was asked to improve their assessment and record keeping which identifies the children's progress and to share these with the parents.

The group has implemented a new system of recording children's progress, all staff have received training on the new procedures. Records are now shared with parents on a regular basis and staff discuss any issues with them.

They were asked to extend the resources which promote sensitivity and respect for other cultures.

New resources now purchased, new dressing up clothes provided. Staff observed the children using the new resources in the home corner.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Staff provide stimulating surroundings for the children and they are motivated to learn. Staff are good role models. Children's behaviour is excellent and they understand the difference between right and wrong. The children are independent, they have self care, can select toys and work independently. They have good relationships with each other and staff. They are caring and sensitive to each others needs. Children show an interest and great delight in their work and achievements.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers with the ability to express themselves clearly. Staff provide many opportunities for children to link sounds to letters. Four year olds are more able at identifying letters and sounds than most of the three year olds. Children are provided with many opportunities to write and make marks. They are encouraged to read, share and enjoy books. They are able to follow text and predict the stories.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can count reliably up to ten, some four year olds beyond this without support. They can recognise written numbers. Staff encourage them to do simple addition and subtraction. Number displays and charts are at child height so they are able to touch and see the display clearly. Staff reinforce their learning with positive use of the number line. Activities to introduce comparison are in place but there is little use of comparative and descriptive language in everyday activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have opportunities to explore, investigate and question. Displays are relevant to the children, they are at child height and are accessible. Children are able to identify everyday objects and explain their purpose. There is photographic evidence that children have looked at different festivals and celebrations. Children have the opportunity use computers and programmable toys, which they are competent at. Staff support them well if they are not sure how to use them.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are given opportunities for outdoor play, with their own secure playground, and are able to move with control and co-ordination. They move around the room and furniture confidently and safely. Children show that they have good ability at handling tools and equipment safely. The children are able to recognise changes in their bodies when they are active and how to keep themselves healthy.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to explore media and materials and they show great pride in their achievements. They can make music and repeat patterns, they are exceptionally good with percussion instruments. Children use their imagination well, especially four year olds in role play. They respond to what they see, hear, touch and feel. Staff support children when they are not sure how to use equipment.

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 the following:
- evaluate activities to include the negatives, as well as the positives, and use this in future planning
- use comparative and descriptive language in everyday activities.

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.