



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127430

DfES Number: 520895

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/07/2004  
Inspector Name Beryl Witheridge

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Owl Pre-School  
Setting Address Packham Road  
Northfleet  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA11 7JF

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Owl Pre-School

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Owl Pre-School  
Address Packham Road  
Northfleet  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA11 7JF

## 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

Owl Pre-School opened in 1976.

It operates from two rooms, with a kitchen and bathroom in a pre-fabricated building, in Shears Green Infant School grounds in Northfleet, Gravesend. The pre-school serves the local area but people do come from further afield.

There are currently 63 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 31 funded 3-year-olds and 32 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports no children with special needs and none who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 08.45 - 11.45, Monday to Friday and 13.00 - 15.30 Monday to Thursday.

There are 12 staff who work with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Several staff have undertaken short courses over the last 12 months.

The setting receives support from a teacher and mentor from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The setting is currently undertaking the Kent Quality Kitemark.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Owl 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. They plan activities to interest and stimulate the children's learning. Planning includes opportunities to extend the learning of the older and more capable children. They extend children's knowledge by encouraging new skills and build on learnt ones. Good supporting photographic evidence is provided. Staff teach the children by example, they are good role models. They encourage the children to move freely between activities and support them in the use of the available resources. The children are confident and well behaved.

Leadership and management is very good. All the staff know their roles within the pre-school and have good working relationships with each other. They have excellent interaction with the children. The staff are committed to the care and development of the children. The curriculum planning is very thorough and takes into account the needs of all the children. Staff are encouraged to undertake training which they do whenever possible. The committee is very involved in the progress of the group and works closely with the staff to provide a well resourced and effective pre-school.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents feel that the staff are friendly, approachable and professional. They are given written information regarding the Early Learning Goals and the proposed half termly activities. Plans are displayed on the parents notice board. Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress, there are formal arrangements in place for them to look at the records and to have an input into their future learning but records are available for them to see at any time. The committee arranges social events and activities during the holidays to encourage continuity for parents and children.

### What is being done well?

- 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.
- Partnership with parents is positive and parents are encouraged to come into the group and take an active interest in their child's progress.
- 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.

- The children are provided with a stimulating, exciting and interesting environment in which to play. They are confident, independent and enjoy learning.
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#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the use and planning of the outdoor area and equipment

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Progress since the last inspection is very good.

The group was asked to improve the mathematics planning to include opportunities for children to solve simple mathematical problems, including simple addition and subtraction and show and awareness of numbers.

Staff addressed this through curriculum planning introducing simple number operations and by increasing the resources to ensure progression.

They were also asked to provide children with opportunities to use, symbols, pictures, familiar letters and words in their writing.

Staff discussed this at curriculum planning meetings and to purchase more resources to support this.

Observations and records of children's progress are kept.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Staff provide stimulating surroundings and the children are motivated to learn. Children have good self esteem and confidence. They are able to form relationships, take turns and play well together in groups. Children are independent, have self care, can select toys and work independently. They have good relationships with each other and staff. Behaviour is generally good and staff deal with any incidents in a calm consistent way. Good behaviour is always praised.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are provided with opportunities for writing, mark making and reading. They are able to recognise letters and sounds. Four year olds are more able at identifying letters and sounds than most of the three year olds. Children are confident in their use of language. They are good communicators and are able to use language to describe things and explain what they mean. Staff encourage children to use new words and ideas, and to extend their vocabulary.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can count reliably up to ten, some four year olds confidently beyond this, with understanding. They recognise written numbers. Number displays are at child height so they are able to touch and see the display clearly. Children are able to do simple addition and subtraction. Staff encourage them in the use of comparative and descriptive language, especially the four year olds.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have opportunities to explore, investigate and question. Four year olds show an ability in the use of computers, most three year olds require support. They have opportunities to learn about the natural world. They grow seeds and plants. Children have a strong sense of self, self worth and an understanding of the world around them. They have opportunities to learn about their lives and different aspects of others around them.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and move with control and co-ordination, they have a good sense of space. They show ability and confidence in the use of both large and small equipment. They are encouraged to use both gross and small motor skills. Children are given opportunities for outdoor play but some of the outdoor equipment is in need of upgrading.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use their imagination well, especially four year olds in role play. They have opportunities to explore colour, texture, shape, sound and extend their imagination. They have free access to the toys and equipment which encourages them to use their creative skills. 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:*

- provide more opportunities for extended outdoor play.

*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.*