



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 205174

DfES Number: 581805

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/03/2005

Inspector Name Jill Nugent

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care

Setting Name New Beginnings Nursery

Setting Address NEW College Rednal Block
Bromsgrove Campus, Blackwood Road
Bromsgrove
Worcs

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name NEW College

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name NEW College

Address Bromsgrove Campus
New College, Blackwood Road
Bromsgrove
Worcs
B60 1PQ

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

New Beginnings Nursery was registered in 1992. It operates from three rooms on the campus of NEW college in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Children have access to a secure outdoor play area. The nursery is planning to move to a new site on the campus in July 2005. A maximum of 36 children aged from 3 months to under 5 years may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 17:30 and for 51 weeks of the year.

There are currently 16 children on roll in the pre-school, of whom 8 3-year-olds and 2 4-year-olds receive funding for nursery education. The nursery serves students and staff at the college and also the local community. At present there are no funded children attending who have special educational needs or who speak English as an additional language. Two staff work with the pre-school children and both have appropriate early years qualifications. The setting receives input from a qualified teacher.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at New Beginnings Nursery is of high quality overall. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff use the early learning goals to plan interesting activities which promote children's learning around various themes. Weekly plans show generally what children are expected to learn, but lack some detail. Staff's interaction with children is very good and they respond well to children's interests. They use challenging questions to encourage children to think and move them on by continually revisiting and extending their learning. Children's behaviour is well managed and they are encouraged to show respect for each other. Staff keep children involved throughout the day and make learning fun. They assess children's progress towards the early learning goals and use the records effectively to guide future planning.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. The manager and pre-school staff meet together regularly and all staff are able to access training easily. The pre-school leader ensures that the room is set up so as to be stimulating for children. She and her colleague evaluate the activities in detail. The manager makes good use of the evaluations to guide the ongoing development of the educational programme. The impending move to a new building has opened up possibilities for various improvements including better outdoor play facilities.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. They exchange information with staff on a preliminary visit and also at the end of each day. The notice board displays much detailed information about the weekly planning and suggestions for helping children at home. At an annual open evening staff share children's developmental records with parents and also a video of children taking part in the activities. Children keep weekly diaries which are also shared with parents.

What is being done well?

- Staff interact with children to encourage, support and extend their learning. They take opportunities to clarify ideas through role play and demonstration. They challenge children to recall earlier activities and to offer their thoughts on new activities.
- Children are developing good early reading and writing skills. They are learning about the letters of the alphabet through the use of a phonics scheme. They discuss initial letter sounds and confidently attempt to write letters and words.
- Children are developing good number skills. They count with confidence to the number 10 and beyond. They count different objects, match them to the

correct numerals and are beginning to calculate by adding groups of objects together.

- Children have good opportunities to explore and to take part in new experiences. They carefully follow instructions for crystallising flower heads and watch with interest when shown how an overflow works.
- Staff provide a variety of activities to promote children's creativity. They encourage children to look closely at the work of artists and paint their own versions for an art gallery display. They increase children's awareness of symmetry by providing one half of a picture for them to complete.

What needs to be improved?

- detail in the planning of weekly activities

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection.

The nursery was asked to prioritise the planning of language and literacy and mathematics, ensure that four-year-olds learn by linking activities to assessment, ensure that physical skills are developed during physical play and to develop children's skills in music.

Planning now shows a balanced coverage over all six learning areas and is linked to assessment through the use of detailed evaluations. The nursery uses a system of planning, observation, assessment, development and evaluation to ensure the effectiveness of their provision. Children have improved opportunities to develop their physical skills through the use of new equipment and the involvement of staff in physical activities. There are many opportunities for children to enjoy singing, explore musical instruments and move to music.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have fun and become very involved in the activities. They are very confident and join in enthusiastically. They have good relationships with each other, waiting patiently for a turn when necessary. Their behaviour is good and they are aware of staff's expectations. They are developing personal independence, managing well to change clothes for outdoor play and selecting resources at free-choice play. They have a strong sense of belonging through working and playing together as a group.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy listening to stories and are led into long discussions on the day's theme. They learn new words, ask questions and explore ideas, such as why they love their mums. They have an increasing awareness of letter sounds and shapes and recognise each other's names. They are developing good writing skills, controlling pencils well and copying over words for displays. They are becoming aware of using writing for recording when dictating to staff their choice of words to describe pictures.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to count different things, for example, spoonfuls of sugar and shape mats. They recognise numerals on cards when playing games and are able to put them in order. They understand the meaning of a pair. They join in with number rhymes and solve number problems during role play in a 'shop'. Children recognise a variety of shapes. They sort toys by size and copy patterns using peg boards. They record on a chart the amounts of rainwater collected over a week.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children like to explore ingredients in cooking activities and investigate what happens when crystallising flowers. They construct statues using art straws and houses from recycled materials. Good use is made of computer games to extend their learning. Children recall previous activities during group discussions. They find out about the local environment and draw pictures of features such as shops. They are learning about different cultures and help to display items for Chinese New Year.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have good opportunities to use a variety of equipment including balancing beams, tunnel and slide. They enjoy using soft play shapes for climbing and building. They use the outdoor area whatever the weather and have fun jumping in puddles in the snow. They enjoy moving to music and joining in with the actions. They talk about how their bodies work and what happens when they run. They are developing good hand-eye co-ordination and use fingers skilfully to break off flower heads.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore different media and materials in a variety of art activities. They draw pictures of their mums and paint self portraits and landscapes in the way of the 'old masters'. They explore paint freely when hand, foot and sponge printing. They make Chinese paper dragons for dancing and are building up a repertoire of favourite songs. Children play imaginatively in the 'shop' and with toy vehicles. They enjoy role play, pretending to be seeds growing or aeroplanes flying.

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:
- include more detail in the weekly plans on what children are expected to learn from each activity

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.