



**Office for Standards
in Education**

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY266766

DfES Number: 581446

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/11/2004
Inspector Name Glenda Sinclair

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Orchard Nursery School
Setting Address Orchard Rise
 Tibberton
 Gloucester
 Gloucestershire
 GL19 3AQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Amanda Susan Horniman

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

Orchard Nursery School is privately owned and operates from nursery premises within the site of Tibberton Primary School. Tibberton is a rural village situated between Gloucester and Newent. The nursery premises are shared with Tibberton and Taynton Playgroup.

The hours of opening are 09.05 to 12.00 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The group provides care and education for up to 16 children aged between 2-years-9 months and 5 years. Funded three and four-year-olds are accepted. A 'Reggio Emilio' approach is followed.

The nursery building offers a play area, toilets and kitchen area. Children also have the use of the nursery outside area, school playground, school hall, play train and field.

The nursery owner and manager is a qualified teacher. She is supported by staff with child care and school training and experience. Parents are encouraged to play an active role within the nursery.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Orchard Nursery School offers provision which is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress in all areas of learning. The provision is outstanding in the way it helps children to gain knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Teaching is very good. The staff are working to the 'Reggio Emilio' philosophy. Topics are child led but staff are careful to ensure that all areas of learning are covered by the excellent use of observation and photography that enables them to assess accurately where there are gaps in the children's learning. Resources are excellent and the staff make imaginative use of the outside facilities which have become a wonderful extension of the children's learning environment. Children's self-esteem is greatly enhanced by the beautifully presented displays of their work. Photographs are used as an observation tool and assessment is kept up-to-date, on a daily basis. Staff constantly praise and encourage children and behaviour in the group is excellent.

Leadership and management is very good. Staff unanimously chose to adopt the 'Reggio Emilio' philosophy and are totally committed to making it work for the children. They work well as a team and spend all their time either working directly with children, observing or taking photographs. The teacher is creating their own 'Learning Journey' with full and frank evaluations of what needs to be done for the setting to improve. She has put a nursery improvement plan in place to help with this and included suggestions from both parents and children.

Partnership with parents is also very good. Daily diaries, which include children's work, photographs and observation notes, are used to keep parents informed. Parents are encouraged to use the diary to record their own observations of their child's progress. An imaginative programme of events has been arranged to encourage parents into the nursery and to become actively involved in their child's learning.

What is being done well?

- Children separate confidently from their parent or carer. They are comfortable speaking to the staff and each other and co-operate well as they play.
- Staff make learning numbers fun and children count reliably to nine.
- Staff provide excellent resources to stimulate children's interest in learning about technology and the natural and wider world. They have many exciting opportunities to play and experiment with natural materials.
- Children use their imaginations very well, particularly in art and design.
- Staff are making very good ongoing observations and assessments of

children's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- planning to further increase links with the community to support children's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable as this was the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children separate happily from their parent and many are sufficiently confident to stand and sing in front of the other children. Staff enhance the children's self-esteem with beautiful displays of the children's own work and photographs of the children playing. Nursery children socialize regularly with the reception children on the 'piazza'. Staff encourage independence by allowing children to pour their own drinks and choose their own choice of topics.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children communicate confidently and staff encourage 'written' communication with the provision of a 'message centre'. They ask children to comment on the digital photographs at the end of each session. All of the children have good pencil control that has been fostered with such activities as drawing round shapes projected onto the wall by the overhead projector. Children enjoy singing simple songs and rhymes and older children are beginning to recognise letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Staff encourage children to count and most children can count reliably to nine. Staff make learning fun by 'tricking' children, deliberately missing numbers out when counting. They encourage children's developing understanding of addition and subtraction by asking questions such as 'How many more do we need?' Children talk about shapes and size quite naturally. One child used a tape to measure a fallen tree and said 'It's longer than the tape'. Children match and complete patterns confidently.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Staff provide excellent resources to stimulate children's interest in technology, the natural and wider world. Staff provide fairy lights, draped saris, 'curry' play dough, ethnic jewellery and much more to introduce children to Diwali. Children use the computer to design and an overhead projector to examine enlarged mini-beasts and the effects of coloured light. Children play in a forest area and learn about mini-beasts, building dens and the sounds of fallen leaves in a natural setting.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

Children use the school hall and apparatus weekly to practise and improve their large muscle skills. They are able to swing on tyres and balance on logs in the forest area. Staff provide many opportunities for children to improve their hand to eye co-ordination. Most children use pencils and felt tips competently and use tools to 'build' homes for the woodland animals. Staff discuss the need to eat a balanced diet and the children are aware that they should not eat 'just chocolate and chips'.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
------------	-----------

Children explore colour and use a variety of materials such as clay, leaves and 'magic' snow. They enjoy singing simple songs, playing instruments and making rhythms by banging on a log with various sized sticks. Staff arrange for an artist to come in and work with the children periodically and children have produced imaginative versions of Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'. They also collaborate on mural-size pieces of work and make sculptures with twigs, leaves, logs, tyres and old buckets.

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:
- continue to enable children to learn about the local community by further encouraging links between the residents, school and the nursery.

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.