



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY240115

DfES Number: 533646

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 30/09/2004
Inspector Name Benita Catherine Hart

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Little Hollies
Setting Address The Pavilion
Bablake Playing Fields, Norman Place Road
Coventry
CV6 2BN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name St Thomas Pre-Schools Ltd

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Thomas Pre-Schools Ltd
Address 19 Browns Lane
Allesley
Coventry
West Midlands
CV5 9DT

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

Little Hollies Pre-school Group opened in 2002. It operates from a sports and social club in the Coundon area of Coventry. The pre-school group provides for the local community but children from other areas of the city would be welcome.

There are currently fifty children from two to five years on roll. This includes thirteen funded three-year-olds.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Morning sessions are from 09:00 - 11:30 and children may stay for lunch between 11:30 - 12:30. Afternoon sessions are from 12:30 -15:00. Children can attend all or any combination of sessions.

There are five members of staff who work with the children. All have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. Students are supported in working towards a recognised early years qualification.

Little Hollies Pre school Group is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Little Hollies Pre-school provides generally good quality education which enables children to make progress along the stepping stones towards the early learning goals. Children make very good progress in their communication, language and literacy, mathematical and creative development. Staff provide a caring and nurturing environment where the children are content and well settled.

The quality of teaching is generally good and the key staff have a secure knowledge of the Foundation Stage and six areas of learning. Planning is detailed using appropriate themes and topics to organise the educational programme and assessment records of the children's progress are closely linked to the stepping stones. However, staff do not always use this information to plan the next stage of learning. Resources are of good quality and plentiful although provision for large climbing equipment is lacking. Deployment of staff and grouping of children is well organised and many resources can be independently accessed by the children. The children's behaviour is good overall and the children respond well to the staff's requests. The staff are calm and efficient in their manner and promote the children's self-esteem and confidence by giving praise and constant reassurance.

Partnership with parents is very good. The pre-school provide a welcoming and friendly environment and good information is provided about the setting, the educational programme and the children's progress. Procedures are in place to support children with special needs and for children where English is an additional language.

Leadership and management are very good. Staff are committed and enthusiastic in their work. They receive good support from the proprietor of the organisation and are committed to monitoring and evaluating the educational programme and quality of the provision.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a caring and relaxed environment ensuring the children are well settled and relaxed in their surroundings.
- There is a very good programme for communication, language and literacy, mathematical and creative development. Children are making very good progress in these areas.
- Partnership with parents is very good and parents are well informed about the setting and their children's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the increased use of information technology
- the challenge for older three-year-olds and four-year-olds
- the opportunities for children to climb and practise the use of large muscle control
- the use of observation and assessment to plan the next stage of learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection with the ownership of this organisation.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children are interested and motivated to participate in the activities. They respond well to the daily routines and are happy and content. The children's self-confidence is developing and they achieve many tasks independently. They have good relationships with the staff and play well together in small groups or in pairs. The children's behaviour is good overall, however on occasions the concentration and perseverance levels of some children can be a distracting influence on the group.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

The children confidently interact and chat with the other children and staff and respond well to the staff's open questioning to extend their language. They are encouraged to use books and enjoy listening to and participating in stories and rhymes. The children can recognise their names and many of the other children's. They have good opportunities to 'write' and practise writing and when children are ready, to practise writing their names with correctly formed letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's understanding of numbers is reinforced as they take part in routine tasks. Most three-year-olds can count up to five and beyond and can recognise numerals in sequence. They are beginning to use mathematical language in their play and in planned activities to describe what they see and to compare shape, size and quantity. They use calculation in rhymes, songs and stories and activities. They are encouraged to problem solve in every day situations such as working out the date.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

The children are learning about the natural world around them and living and growing things. They are learning about similarities and differences through looking at growth and life cycles. The children have access to a computer and programmable toys however, the computer is planned as an activity rather than daily use. Children are developing a sense of time and place and a realisation of their own community and their wider environment through learning about other cultures and beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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The children have daily opportunities to develop skills of control and co-ordination and move confidently within their surroundings. They are familiar with music to movement and participate in energetic activities such as the small trampoline, climbing frame and wheeled toys. However, the climbing frame is too small for the older three-year-olds and does not challenge the more confident child. They regularly use small tools and resources to develop fine motor skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are able to respond to their senses in a variety of ways and have good opportunities to explore their own creativity within planned and spontaneous activities. They can express themselves through singing, dance and action rhymes and use role play to develop their imagination and imitate their own experiences. They use a range of medias to create pictures and explore the use of colour, texture and design.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES

- use observation and assessment information to plan the next steps of children's learning and meet their individual needs
- provide large equipment for three and four-year-olds to practise climbing skills.

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.