



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 119251

DfES Number: 521850

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/11/2004
Inspector Name Margaret Moffat

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Old School Day Nursery
Setting Address Fernbank Road
NORTH ASCOT
Berkshire
SL5 8LA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Old School Day Nursery

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Old School Day Nursery
Address Old School Day Nursery
Fernbank Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8LA

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

Old School Day Nursery and Out of School Club is privately owned and has been registered since 1989. It operates from part of a converted Victorian school building in North Ascot. A maximum of 64 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08.00 to 18.00 for 51 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secured enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 90 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 36 children, receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area.

The nursery employs 11 staff. Of these 6, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. A further 4 members of staff are working towards a qualification.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Old School Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education, which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Provision for their personal, social and emotional development and physical development are very good.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff's knowledge of the early learning goals enables them to provide a range of interesting and appropriate activities to help children learn. Staff miss opportunities for children to develop simple calculation skills, use technology equipment or express themselves freely in planned creative activities. Topics are revisited annually and staff effectively use resources and accommodation within the themes to promote children's learning. Children are eager to participate in the activities on offer and they are confident and happy. They behave well and respond positively to praise and encouragement offered by staff. Staff provide a good range of activities for children to develop their physical skills. Staff are confident in their use of effective questioning and explanation techniques to help children learn. There is a planning and assessment system in place however, the evaluations of activities and observations made on children are not in effective use to record children's progress and plan their next stage of learning.

Leadership and management is generally good. There is a good staff team in place who are aware of their roles and responsibilities. They are committed to on going training to improve the quality of the education provision.

Partnership with parents and carers is generally good. Staff have good relationships with the parents and carers. Information sharing is on a daily basis and parents have information about the nursery topics, activities and routines. Parents have opportunities to discuss their children's progress on request but there are still limited opportunities for them to share their observations about their children.

What is being done well?

- Children are eager to attend and motivated to learn. Good relationships are in place; children interact well with staff and each other. They are well behaved and respond well to praise and encouragement, offered by staff.
- A good range of indoor and outdoor physical activities promote children's physical development.
- Staff work well together providing interesting activities and experiences for children to learn
- Staff are effective in their use of open-ended questions to extend children's knowledge, understanding and communication skills.

What needs to be improved?

- evaluation of activities and use of children's observations to determine their next stage of learning
- opportunities for children to develop simple calculation skills through everyday practical and planned activities
- opportunities for children to access technology equipment and ensure this is reflected in planning
- opportunities for children to express themselves freely in planned art and craft activities
- the development of parents contribution to children's records.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The provision has made limited improvements in tackling issues raised in previous inspection. These required the nursery to provide opportunities for children to use technology to support their learning and opportunities for parents and carers to contribute to children's records of attainment and progress. Children have opportunities to use technology equipment but this has not been effectively planned and evaluated to support learning and remains an outstanding issue. Parents have opportunities to contribute to children's learning through written records and meetings however this is not used effectively to inform planning or contribute to children's records.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are involved in and enjoy their learning, showing good levels of concentration. Children develop very good relationships working well together and independently. They share resources and behave well responding positively to the praise and encouragement offered by staff. They develop good independence skills. Children are becoming aware of wider world through themes.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are good communicators and engage in effective conversation with staff and each other. Children are encouraged to use books during activities and they choose books for own enjoyment. Staff provide good opportunities for children to practice their writing skills and to recognise and write their own names. Children are beginning to link sounds to letters however staff miss opportunities to adapt this activity for younger children.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children use number in familiar context, many count to ten and beyond and recognise numbers between one and nine. Opportunities are missed to encourage children to explore simple calculation in everyday practical activities. Children confidently recreate patterns using puzzles, threading and worksheets. They can recognise and name simple shapes and have opportunities for weighing and measuring during practical activities for example cooking.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children experience a good range of activities to learn from first hand experiences. They talk about events in their own lives and have a growing awareness of other cultures and traditions through practical activities and well-resourced themes. Children build and construct using a range of toys and resources; junk modelling, lego and duplo. Opportunities are missed for children to access technology equipment on a regular basis.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and imaginatively showing awareness of themselves and others in their physical play. They have access and opportunity to develop and extend their physical co-ordination in a variety of situations for example using outdoor play park. Children use a range of tools confidently. Children are confident when undertaking routine activities and show good awareness of personal care and changes to their bodies for example being hot and cold.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children respond enthusiastically during activities and are confident in communicating their ideas. They express their imagination through a variety of role play situations. Some planned art and craft activities are too prescriptive and adult led, giving children little opportunities to express themselves freely in these. Children have opportunities to respond to what they see, smell, taste, touch and feel through practical activities.

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

- Improve system for evaluating activities and recording children's individual assessment to inform future planning and what children have to do next.
- Provide opportunities for children to explore and develop simple calculation skills through everyday practical activities
- Ensure children have regular access to technology equipment and reflect this in planning
- Ensure planned art and craft activities are not too prescriptive and allow children to express themselves freely.

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.