



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 316025

DfES Number: 511724

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/03/2005
Inspector Name	Jane Pamela Berry

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Croft House Nursery
Setting Address	Bridge Street Horwich Bolton Lancashire BL6 7BT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Croft House Nursery Limited 4846744
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Croft House Nursery Limited
Address	Croft House Bridge Street, Horwich Bolton Lancashire BL6 7BT

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

Croft House Nursery operates from a semi detached property in the Horwich area of Bolton. The nursery opened in the autumn of 1989. Parking is available in the nursery grounds for staff and parents along with an overflow car park to the side of the nursery. Ramps are available to enable easy access into the building. The local shops, library, leisure centre, church, nature walk, playing field and park are all within walking distance.

There are five rooms used for childcare and outdoor play can be accessed from each room into a secure grassed, flagged and soft play area. The nursery has two guinea pigs and some goldfish.

The nursery is registered to care for 60 children. There are currently 86 on roll of whom 37 receive funding for nursery education. Opening times are Monday to Friday from 08.00 until 18.00. At present there are 37 funded children, aged three and four years olds attending the nursery. The nursery supports children with additional needs and with English as an additional language.

The owner of the nursery is a qualified teacher and all staff employed hold relevant qualifications and experience in childcare or are working towards qualifications. The nursery receives support from the Early Years Partnership. The nursery has achieved the Quality Counts Award from the National Day Nursery Association.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Croft House offers very good quality education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of their learning.

The planning and organisation of the curriculum is very effective. Staff have a very sound knowledge of the early learning goals. Staff know the children well and ensure that their individual needs are met by providing appropriate & stimulating challenges. Staff support children's behaviour very well. They are calm and confident and have very high expectations of the children.

Teaching is used very effectively to support children's learning in all areas of curriculum planning. The provision is outstanding in all aspects. Opportunities for enhancing the outdoor provision is identified as a point for consideration. Leadership is very good. Management are very astute and focus on continual improvement, striving for and achieving excellence in the field of care and education. This comes through in the experiences the children receive and the very elaborate children's work displayed.

Staff work exceptionally well together, observing and assessing children's progress in all aspects of their development. Staff meet regularly to discuss planning and ensure that children's future learning is clearly based on what they already know, can do and are aspiring to achieve. Staff, parents and managers work very well to share the very high quality information on children's progress. Excellent attention is given to evaluation and forward planning. A very high level of commitment is afforded to development & training.

The very good partnership with parents is established from the time children start. There is an abundance of high quality information for parents about the educational programme and regarding their children's interests and achievements. Feedback from parents is extremely positive and they are very satisfied with the service. They describe the nursery as 'a very special and a happy place' for their children.

What is being done well?

- A good mix of adult led and child-initiated activities are provided. There are many opportunities for the children to follow their interests and to pursue their ideas. Opportunities for children to develop their knowledge of different lifestyles and to use information technology are readily available.
- All the areas of learning are provided for within the learning environment. Children are learning about the world we live in through meaningful activities that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Equality is promoted very well through visits, discussion, activities and books.
- Children behave very well and this is encouraged by all staff. The caring and

consideration of others is promoted. Children engage in purposeful activities and are able to concentrate for lengthy periods of time. Effective relationships are established and parents are well informed of children's progress.

- The provision is sound. A very exciting and stimulating range of activities are planned for all the areas of learning, encouraging children's progress in all aspects. Staff are very positive, focussing on the children and supporting their learning appropriately.
- Teamwork and communication is very good. There is a strong commitment to further improvement through training, development opportunities and leadership is very effective. Provision is very good for children with special educational needs.

What needs to be improved?

- further enhance the very well established high quality provision, by facilitating children's experiences in the outdoor environment.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The provider is continually developing the systems for recording children's progress, including the assessment portfolios and the planning tools. The systems are used very effectively to inform future work with the children.

The provider has made very good progress since the last inspection on the points for consideration.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children make good links between home and nursery, when they take the wise owl home and describe their experiences. They are eager and confident, exploring and investigating and are well motivated. They concentrate well and problem-solve. They are developing friendships showing care and concern for one another. They exercise choice and demonstrate personal independence as they access resources, often initiating & reflecting on their own learning.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are very confident speakers and good listeners. They use language well to plan what they are doing, to negotiate and to recall past events. They recognise letters and identify objects that begin with specific letters, such as when making shopping lists. They enjoy looking at books and listen with interest to stories. They frequently make marks and practice early writing skills, such as writing labels for their artwork and activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use a very good range of resources to learn about number, shape and size. They compare, sort, match, sequence, make patterns and use mathematical language such as 'big' and 'biggest' with confidence during play. They often count to ten and beyond during the day and develop very good number recognition skills. They use their mathematical knowledge well in play, such as exploring number operations with the roamer.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children use the many very good opportunities to observe the similarities, differences and changes of natural objects and living things, such as planting seeds and finding out how and why they grow. They find out why things happen and how things work, such as observing ice melt & playing on the computer. They learn about the world around them when they go on outings, such as looking at the birds & collecting natural materials on a nature walk.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use many very good opportunities such as the swimming and movement sessions to practice co-ordination and motor skills. They have access to an interesting outdoor play area and activities developing their physical skills. They are aware of their own needs, and use opportunities such as a visit from the dentist to learn about health. They develop their fine motor skills well, using a range of small equipment such as pencils and scissors.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children create pictures and objects in two and three dimensions using a very good range of interesting materials. They use their senses often, to taste, smell and feel the texture of different materials. They use their imagination well during various role-play situations for enjoyment. During play they often sing and listen to music. They explore the sounds of a good range of percussion instruments with enthusiasm.	
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 key issues to report from this inspection, however as a point for consideration:
- The curriculum experiences already have outstanding features for all the areas of children's learning and development. Continue to further enhance the very well established high quality provision, by facilitating children's experiences in the outdoor environment by developing methods that continually improve children's access to the outdoor world.

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.