



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 258596

DfES Number: 523823

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/03/2004
Inspector Name Helen Clark

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Hucknall Day Nursery
Setting Address 100 Nottingham Road
Hucknall
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG15 7QE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Elizabeth Anne Alexandra Smith

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

Hucknall Day Nursery opened in 1996. It operates from a large converted bungalow on the main road through Hucknall. There are three main group rooms for the children's use inside and a fully enclosed play space outside. This includes a large grassed area with mature trees and a hard surface area for bikes and trolleys. There is also a play barn for use in bad weather. The nursery serves the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 65 children from six weeks to under eight years on roll. This includes 10 funded 3-year-olds and 7 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. There are systems in place to support children with special needs and English as an additional language.

The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 07:45 until 18:00.

There are 15 staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. There are four staff currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a specialist teacher from the Nottinghamshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Hucknall Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. All staff are involved in planning a varied and stimulating environment that in turn motivates children to learn. The challenges set for the 4-year-olds are very good. Staff use their time effectively and work alongside the children to extend their knowledge and thinking, however, the planned curriculum is less effective for the younger children in the group. Staff make regular observations of the children's progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals. There are sufficient systems in place to support children with special educational needs or English as an additional language. The nursery is well resourced and staff use these resources in creative and imaginative ways to support children's learning. Overall children's behaviour is managed in a way that promotes a positive sense of well being, however, not all staff apply this consistently. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

Leadership and management is very good. The nursery benefits from effective management and good teamwork from enthusiastic, well motivated staff. The setting is committed to continual improvement through regular evaluation and feedback from parents, staff and other professionals. Staff training needs are identified and they are encouraged to regularly update their knowledge and skills.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with good quality information about the setting and clear detailed information about the educational provision. Good use is made of children's photographs, art work and displays to keep parents regularly updated and fully informed. Daily discussions and more formal home/nursery diaries keep parents informed about their child's progress and development.

What is being done well?

- Staff are very enthusiastic and use their time spent with the children effectively. They are very imaginative and plan a varied and stimulating environment.
- The information provided to parents is very good. A comprehensive welcome booklet clearly explains the foundation stage and the early learning goals. Daily discussions and written information in the home/nursery diary ensures effective communication.
- The programme for music is very good. Children have regular access to a range of musical instruments and demonstrate competence in using them correctly. The creative use of puppets, song boards and other resources makes musical activities fun and interesting.

What needs to be improved?

- the planning for the younger, less able children in the group and the opportunities for them to freely choose activities
- the consistent and appropriate management of children's behaviour by all staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The progress since the last inspection has been limited. There were three key issues for improvement raised at the last inspection. The first two key issues related to the educational provision for the 3-year-olds. To ensure writing activities are appropriate and to ensure the grouping of the children provided them with more opportunity to freely choose activities throughout the day. Although a plan was drawn up and actions carried out the planning is still ineffective for the younger children in the group, therefore this will be carried forward from this inspection. The third key issue was to provide more challenging climbing equipment for the 4-year-olds. The challenges set for the 4-year-olds are good throughout the provision and their physical development is planned for appropriately.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children concentrate well and 4-year-old children display high levels of involvement in activities. Staff's enthusiasm motivates children to try new activities and develops positive attitudes to learning. Children have a sense of belonging as they are familiar with the nursery routine and have developed good relationships with adults and peers. Children show increasing independence and behave well. They are keen to take responsibility such as tidying away and setting the table for dinner.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

All children communicate well. They confidently speak to others about their interests and wants. They ask simple questions and attentively listen to others. All the children enjoy rhyming and rhythmic activities such as tapping out their name with musical instruments. Most 4-year-olds can write their own name and other recognisable letters. Some writing activities are inappropriate for the 3-year-olds. Most children recognise their own name and can identify other labels around the room.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Most 3-year-olds count reliably up to five objects and some go beyond. The 4-year-olds recognise numerals up to nine and are developing an understanding of larger numbers beyond ten. Children use simple mathematical language during their play as they fill boxes with sand and describe the size and shape of cars. With adult support they are learning about simple mathematical concepts such as addition and subtraction and are able to match and recognise a variety of shapes in their play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children look carefully at change as they observe the weather each day, plant seeds and watch them grow. Children are encouraged to talk about past events and photographic displays prompt discussion. Children have access to a variety of programmable toys to support their learning. Topics and themes help children learn about the world around them and gain an awareness of other cultures and beliefs. Children use their design and making skills as they build and construct with a range of resources.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's co-ordination is developing well as they practice skills such as balancing, throwing and catching. They move around confidently when playing inside and out. Most 3 and 4-year-olds are competent at running, jumping and climbing. They use a range of large and small equipment and engage in many activities that develops their hand-eye co-ordination. Topics and themes help children develop an understanding about health and bodily awareness.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show an interest in the way musical instruments sound and demonstrate competence in using them correctly. They listen and move to a wide range of music and most children can sing a selection of simple songs from memory. Children use their imagination in a variety of ways including art, craft and role play. They regularly explore a wide range of materials and media as they experiment with colour, use their senses and create models from recycled materials.

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

- ensure activities are planned appropriately for the 3-year-old children and provide them with more opportunity to freely choose activities throughout the day.

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.