



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509195

DfES Number: 516847

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 05/03/2003
Inspector Name Susan Anne O'Keeffe

SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name Little Acorns
Setting Address 10 Thornhill Road
Derby
Derbyshire
DE22 3LX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of S Shephard & S Rhodes

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name
Address

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 Acorns is a privately owned Day Nursery which opened in 1990, with the current proprietors taking responsibility in 1998. It operates from a converted large Victorian house, which is situated within a residential area of the city of Derby. There is also access to a kitchen, toilets, staff facilities and an enclosed outdoor play area. Children and families attend the nursery from Mickleover, Littleover and the surrounding areas of Derby. . The Nursery is registered to provide places for 36 children aged 0-5 years, which includes no more than 6 children under 12 months. There are currently 58 children on roll, who attend a variety of sessions each week, depending on parental wishes. This includes 13 three year olds on register, all of whom are funded and 7 four year olds, all of whom are funded. All the children attending the nursery speak English as their first language and there are currently no children attending with a special educational need, although there are effective measures in place to support children. The nursery is open five days a week, Monday - Friday, all year round. Opening hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6:30p.m. 12 staff work with the children. Of these 8 hold qualifications in early years, with the remaining staff currently working towards a relevant childcare qualifications. Little Acorns Day Nursery is a member of the National Day Nurseries Association and has achieved their 'Quality Counts' accreditation. The nursery is also a member of the Preschool Learning Alliance.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Little Acorns Day Nursery offers good quality nursery education, where the children enjoy attending the setting and make very good progress towards the early learning goals. Teaching is very good. Strong relationships have formed between the children and the staff resulting in the children being settled in the nursery environment. The children enjoy the variety of interesting activities which are provided but on occasions the balance between adult-directed and child-initiated activities can lead to missed opportunities for the children. The clear planning of activities, staff's sound understanding of the early learning goals and the effective assessment of children's development ensures a wide range of appropriate and stimulating activities are provided. This benefits the progress children make in all areas of learning. Leadership and management is very good. Effective systems are in place to monitor the quality of the educational provision, which are then used to make improvements. The staff team work well together, under the strong leadership of the nursery management. The nursery are committed to improving standards of care and education within the setting and the development of staff is supported and encouraged in a number of ways. The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed and receive good quality information about the setting. Opportunities are provided by the nursery to ensure parents are aware of their child's achievements and to involve them in their child's learning. Parents report that they are happy with the educational provision and have seen their child make good progress. Children benefit from the relationships which have formed between the nursery and their parents.

What is being done well?

Children's speaking and listening skills are developing very well and they confidently use speech in everyday activities and to communicate with others. Children are developing an enjoyment of books, which is encouraged through the opportunities provided by the nursery. Excellent opportunities are provided which ensure the children's skills in exploration, investigation and experimentation are developing well. Children are sociable and confident within the environment. They are interested in the activities provided and display high levels of concentration whilst involved in these. Effective planning of the curriculum provided and clear assessment of children's learning ensures activities are provided to encourage children's learning in all areas. A wide range of opportunities are provided to ensure parents are well informed about the nursery provision and their individual child's achievements.

What needs to be improved?

No significant weaknesses have been identified but points to consider for improvement: 'The balance between adult-directed and child initiated activities to provide more challenge for children. The physical programme to provide more

challenge for the more able children's large motor skills.
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What has improved since the last inspection?

<p>The setting has made very good improvement since the last inspection. The book corner has been developed, which ensures books are displayed in a way which is more inviting to children and encourages them to use them as a resource. There is also more selection for the children to choose from when using the library area. Opportunities have been provided by the group to encourage children to independently select and use a variety of resources whilst involved in creative activities such as box modelling and collage.</p>
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SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are interested in the wide range of activities provided and demonstrate a positive approach to learning. They are extending their skills of concentration and display high levels of this whilst involved in the activities. Children are learning to form caring relationships with their peers and the adults who work with them. They share and take turns appropriately whilst involved in activities together and are developing their understanding of what is right and wrong.	
COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children's spoken language is developing very well and they confidently use language during their time in the nursery. They are learning to use speech to communicate and negotiate with others and to voice their own views and ideas. Through the many opportunities the nursery provides children are developing an enjoyment of books and show a sound understanding of their format. They listen and respond well to the stories read and join in and share their own thoughts with others.	
MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are learning about number operations through the planned activities the nursery provides. They confidently use number in everyday situations and many children can reliably count up to and beyond ten. Children are developing their understanding of mathematical ideas and use this knowledge to describe and compare features whilst involved in the many activities provided.	
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are provided with the opportunity to access an interesting range of practical activities to extend their knowledge of exploration, investigation and experimentation. They use these skills both in the planned activities and to extend their learning independently. Children are developing a sound understanding of information technology. They demonstrate very good skills when using the computer and are able to explain it's operation to their peers and support them in using the equipment.	
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children move confidently and safely around the environment and show a sound understanding of spacial awareness, both of themselves and of others. They are learning to move imaginatively through the good opportunities provided, however on some occasions the programme for children's large physical skills may lack challenge for the more able children. Children show increasing control when using tools and materials, which is encouraged through the resources and activities the	

nursery provides.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are learning to explore and develop their understanding of music, sound and instruments, which is encouraged through the opportunities provided by the nursery. They are developing their skills in expressing and communicating their own thoughts, feelings and experiences and use a variety of mediums to convey these emotions. Children use their imagination whilst involved in pretend and role play situations and use their own experiences and the available resources to extend their play.
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Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately:	Y
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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 close consideration should be given to improving the following:' Evaluate the balance between adult-directed and child-initiated activities to ensure children gain the most from the activities provided. Continue to develop the programme for physical development to ensure more able children's large physical skills are challenged appropriately