



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 131695

DfES Number: 515530

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	18/03/2005
Inspector Name	Janice Anjo

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Highbury Community Nursery
Setting Address	15 Aubert Park London N5 1TL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Highbury Community Nursery 02324172 1020319
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Highbury Community Nursery
Address	15 Aubert Park London N5 1TL

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

Highbury Community Nursery was first established in 1985 and is managed by a committee of parents and carers. It is situated in the London Borough of Islington and serves a culturally diverse community. The nursery is registered to offer 45 full-time places for children from six months to five- years- old. The nursery offers part and full- time care from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm for 50 weeks a year.

Since the last inspection the nursery has been relocated to alternative accommodation in Highbury Quadrant due to extensive rebuilding in the original nursery. Work is due for completion later this year.

There are 18 three and four- year- olds including 14 funded three- year- olds and four funded four- year- olds in attendance.

There are 15 staff members including seven with appropriate qualifications in education and childcare. Two members of staff are working towards qualifications.

The nursery is currently accommodated in a large church hall and has the use of additional rooms. children have access to a spacious and secure outdoor area.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at Highbury Community Nursery is very good and children are making very good progress in all areas of learning towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff plan thoroughly and children are provided with appropriate activities that include interesting challenges. Staff have a child-centred approach which engages children's attention. Staff have a good knowledge of the early learning goals and senior staff members are able to explain clearly what children will learn from activities. Staff follow through children's interests and ideas and their skills are increasing. For example, outdoor activities encourage children to explore and develop their physical abilities. Resources are of good quality and plentiful both indoors and out.

Assessment procedures are very good enabling staff to develop a clear picture of children's interests and achievement. Assessment procedures are linked to the six areas of learning and include direct classroom observations.

The management and leadership of the nursery is very good. The manager oversees the staff meeting agenda and is committed to improvements and the introduction of innovative ideas. All staff members attend regular training sessions and good -practice visits to other early years settings are encouraged.

Although planning is already effective the manager has yet to increase links with the stepping stones. Staff supervision undertaken by senior management helps raise standards, however, the manager could improve quality further by introducing formal appraisals into the existing system.

Partnership with parents is very good and parents receive regular news letters to keep them updated and well informed. Children's profile books are freely available and give a good indication of children's development. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the running of the nursery by sharing their skills

What is being done well?

- Outdoor play is provided everyday and children are encouraged to exercise and take part in other interesting outdoor activities, such as, sand and water experiments, creative play, painting and playing musical instruments.
- Staff plan well to ensure children experience a variety of involving activities. Staff base activities upon children's interests and ideas.
- Physical development is very good and children manipulate small objects very well. They also have chances to handle large objects such as tyres and try challenging activities such as balancing on a rope.

- Partnership with parents is effective and there are opportunities for parents to become involved in the running of the playgroup. Parents are provided with fun ideas about helping children to progress at home.

What needs to be improved?

- the links between the stepping stones and planning and the inclusion of formal teacher appraisal during supervision procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made in addressing the issues raised by the last inspection. The nursery now ensures all parents have access to children's records and profile book. The profile book contains pictures, staff comments and other evidence of attainment. Parents are welcome to contribute comments at anytime.

The premises now provides adequate lighting for all activities. The original setting is in the process of refurbishment to provide extra space and a high standard of accommodation.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidently participate during the story session and they suggest ideas and are involved in their activities. Children are encouraged to cooperate when building things together and they help to tidy equipment away. They have good opportunities to develop a sense of independence, for instance, they pour out drinks for themselves and decide if they want to play inside or out.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children listen to stories with pleasure, they join in and often use story props to re-enact favourite scenes. Children enjoy looking at books and are learning to recognize their names and other children's names. Childcare practitioners point to letters and introduce children to letter names and sounds. Children are encouraged to write labels and headings for displays and older children write clearly recognizable sentences.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Older children confidently count to ten and sometimes beyond. They enjoy counting songs and are able to recognize and write some numerals. Staff extend children's mathematical language as they discuss position, size and quantity. Children solve simple problems as they weigh out the ingredients for cooking, they add more flour or take some away. They use large blocks to solve balancing problems, for instance, they sort through wooden bricks to find the correct size to make a bridge.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have good opportunities to explore and handle objects at the interest table, for instance, a bird's nest. They look closely at the gold fish and learn some of the features of living things. Staff take children to the nearby park and they discuss the surrounding sights and sounds. Topic work enables children to learn about traffic and road safety in the local area. Children learn about different faiths and cultures. They talk about Easter traditions as well as others.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy outdoor play where they learn to increase their bodily skills as they climb, crawl, slide and also bounce on the trampoline. Children are challenged to balance on the ropes strung between two trees. They have good opportunities to handle large equipment such as tyres for rolling and milk crates for building. They are encouraged to handle materials safely and children practise scissor skills regularly. They use glue sticks and spreaders effectively.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children experience regular opportunities to create pictures and have access a range of resources to make imaginative art works. Paintings displayed on the wall are expressive and lively. Their imaginations are developing as they explore stories and use the puppets and magnet board resources to make up their own stories. They enjoy listening to music and playing recorders. There is time for children to explore with their five senses throughout the day, both indoors and out.	
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 significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- Improve already good planning by including clear links with the stepping stones.
- Ensure staff supervision procedures include formal staff appraisals.

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.