



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY104370

DfES Number: 520254

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	11/01/2005
Inspector Name	Dianne Lynn Sadler

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Dollymixtures Nursery
Setting Address	The New Lodge Corporation Street Stafford Staffordshire ST16 3AG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Dolly Mixtures Nursery
------	------------------------

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Dolly Mixtures Nursery
Address	The New Lodge Corporation Street Stafford

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

Dollymixtures Nursery is privately run. It opened in 1989, and has been on the current site since 2002. It operates from a purpose built building on the site of Stafford hospital. A maximum of 74 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 07:00 to 18.00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 130 children aged from 0 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 31 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area, as most of their parents travel into the hospital to work. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The nursery employs 17 staff. Twelve of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. Four 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?

Dollymixtures nursery provides high quality nursery education overall which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals. An imaginative and stimulating environment is offered to children, covering all areas of learning. Children are making particularly good progress in communication, language and literacy.

The quality of the teaching is very good. Staff have a very good understanding of the foundation stage and organise clear, concise educational plans. Activities are stimulating and well planned and ensure children make choices and use their imagination. Staff are developing very good relationships with children. They listen to what children say and extend children's learning by encouraging them to think and express their ideas and feelings. Staff manage children's behaviour very well, setting clear boundaries understood by children, using positive reinforcements for good behaviour and achievements. Staff are proactive in ensuring all children are included at all times, their needs being met very well. Staff use the available space effectively and there is a wide range of imaginative resources available.

The leadership and management of the group are very good. Staff work together effectively ensuring the nursery provides very good education for children. There is a commitment to further training, to ensure the care and education for children is making constant improvement. A well-planned programme of staff development is in place, aimed at evaluating and improving teaching.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents spend time communicating with staff both formally and informally about their children and are well informed about the provision. There are also good opportunities for parents to receive and discuss information about their children's development. Parents are encouraged to participate within the nursery and become involved in their children's learning, ensuring good links between home and nursery.

What is being done well?

- Staff have a very good knowledge of the curriculum and organise very well planned activities, covering all areas of learning. This ensures all children are making very good progress.
- Staff work together effectively. There is good communication and a strong commitment to improving the education for all children.
- Staff are developing very good relationships with parents, who participate in the nursery on a regular basis and become involved in their children's learning. This ensures good links between home and nursery.
- Staff provide a wide range of stimulating and imaginative resources, which

are used well to ensure children are interested and motivated to learn.

- Staff manage children's behaviour very well. Children are praised for positive behaviour and good work by receiving stickers, achievement stars and taking a trophy home.
- Children are progressing particularly well in communication, language and literacy. They have access to a library, use a treasure box to bring into nursery items from home to discuss at circle time and write in their own individual nature and weather books.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to develop a knowledge of calculation in spontaneous situations.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are involved in a stimulating range of activities, enhanced by the good use of imaginative resources that help them progress and motivate them to learn. All are able to sit and concentrate for appropriate periods of time and are confident to try new experiences. Children are able to select resources and play opportunities for themselves throughout the session. Children behave well and are able to take turns, share and show respect for each other.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children take part in a wide range of activities, which develops their listening skills. They are able to confidently communicate ideas and feelings and use speech to explore real and imagined experiences. Children have access to a library and are developing an enjoyment of books and demonstrate an understanding of how to use them. Children are able to recognise and attempt to write their own names. They are able to write for a variety of purposes throughout the session.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to learn about number through a range of well-planned activities. Some children count confidently to ten with meaning and are able to recognise numbers up to ten and beyond. Children are developing an understanding of calculation in planned situations, however this is limited in spontaneous situations. All children are using mathematical ideas to solve problems and are able to recognise shape and size.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to discuss their families past and future events with confidence. They are able to investigate and explore a range of man-made and natural materials, both indoors and outdoors. Children are able to observe the natural world and the community in which they live. They explore and record changes in the weather and nature. Children are learning about their own and other cultures and beliefs during spontaneous and planned play.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are involved in well-planned physical play sessions daily, both indoors and outdoors. They are developing a sense of space, and are able to use both small and large equipment with confidence and control. All children are developing a good awareness of their own bodies and enjoy music and movement. A wide range of tools is freely accessible to the children to develop fine manipulative skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have plenty of opportunities to explore colour, texture, shape, form and space. They are able to respond in a variety of ways to what they see, hear, smell, taste, touch and feel. All children are encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas, thoughts and feelings in a variety of activities. All children confidently recite nursery rhymes from memory in small group situations and explore music and movement.	
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 increasing children's knowledge of calculation in spontaneous situations.

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.