



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 227230

DfES Number: 517497

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 24/02/2004
Inspector Name Jennifer Turner

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Catherine House Day Nursery
Setting Address 19 Woodland Road
Northfield
Birmingham
WEST MIDLANDS
B31 2HU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Buds Ltd. 2734452

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Buds Ltd.
Address 9 St. Agnes Road
Moseley
Birmingham
West Midlands
B13 9PH

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

Catherine House Day Nursery School was opened in January 1993. It is one in a group of 6 Catherine House nurseries around the country. It operates from a large house in Northfield, Birmingham. The main house accommodates children under 3 years and a Coach House which is a separate building is used by the pre-school children. The building contains 7 play rooms, 2 sleep rooms, large garden, office, staff room, reception area, laundry and kitchen.

There are currently 75 children from 3 months to 8 years on roll. This includes 4 funded three-year-olds and 7 funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The setting supports children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week all year round with exceptions of Christmas, Easter and bank holidays. Sessions are from 8:00am until 18:00pm.

10 part time /full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NV level 2 or 3. Some staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher /mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Catherine House Day Nursery provides generally good quality nursery education.

Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals, with staff who are committed to the children and parents. The staff in general have a sound knowledge of the foundation stage, although they have not undertaken the formal training which inhibits their abilities to observe and assess the children's learning in order to plan the next steps in their progress and development.

What is being done well?

- There are clear routines in place which helps to make children feel secure and confident. Good relationships are evident between children and their peers and children and staff. Staff manage children well and have high expectations of behaviour and the children understand what is expected of them. Staff are consistent in their approach and children respond well to praise and encouragement.
- Staff provide a good range of practical experiences for children. They investigate the natural environment and bring natural things inside in order to observe them. The children are encouraged to explore change and show an interest in why things happen.
- The children are given lots of opportunities to initiate their own play, whilst focused activities are organised. Staff make good use of the nursery environment and make effective use of their time and resources.
- They spend much of their time working directly with the children ensuring that all play equipment are easily accessible.

What needs to be improved?

- the staff knowledge of the learning goals and foundation stage curriculum
- the observations and assessments of children learning to ensure staff to extend the learning opportunities for more able children
- the nursery brochure to give parents details for the educational provision.

What has improved since the last inspection?

As a result of the inspection carried out in 1998 the key issues for action included - providing sufficient quantity + sizes of mark making materials, puzzles with varying degrees of difficulties to challenge more able children and to provide range of technological construction kits. These have been addressed through the organisation of

a writing table with a good selection of mark making materials, pens, crayons, pencils, marker pens, all of varying sizes. number of new puzzels have been purchased some with larger pieces for the more able chn. Construction kits are available and includes connexs, various lego construction kits and staff use lots of everyday materials eg, milk and bread crates, drain pipes and wood for construction.

The planning of the education programme has been developed with long, medium and short term planning undertaken between the staff. The plans are detailed and easy to follow. the short term plan inparticular was limited in the information, this now includes the areas of learning and the stepping stones.

The parents brochure has not been amended to include information on the educational provison for the areas of learning, instead the group has developed an wall within the main building to display this information to parents.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are making generally good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. They are interested and motivated to learn and are developing positive relationships. They show concern for others and negotiate easily during free play and are beginning to understand the concept of right and wrong.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make generally good progress in their communication, language and literacy. They listen attentively and respond with enjoyment to stories told with props and familiar nursery rhymes. Children are given good opportunities to talk confidently about their own experiences. The children recognise their names and some recognise the names of other children in the group as well as key words used regularly.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make generally good progress in their mathematical development. They show an interest in numbers and counting, although opportunities for more able children to count past twenty is limited. Children are developing mathematical language to describe shapes, size and quantity through daily opportunities to play with sand and water. Their language and concepts of adding and subtraction in mathematics is further developed through nursery rhymes and every day practical experiences.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children make generally good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world. They show great interest in the natural environment, as they examine objects with magnifying glasses and their senses. They have access to a range of technological equipment such as computers, tape recorders and calculators. Children freely talk about past events and show an awareness of other cultures.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are making generally good progress in their physical development. The large outdoor play area and the equipment provided, enable children to develop increased skills and confidence in climbing, balancing, riding bikes and scooters skilfully. The use of visiting staff enhances the programme for developing children awareness of healthy eating, exercise and the effects this has on their bodies.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making generally good progress in their creative development. The children are able to differentiate between colour and the effects of colour changes, and they explore different textures. Children enjoy music, which they express through singing and movement with the help of a qualified dance teacher. They have created their own musical instruments to use during singing sessions. Opportunities for imaginative play is good, with some lovely resources, often linked to planned themes.

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

- The staff knowledge of the learning goals and foundation stage curriculum.
- The observations and assessments of children learning to ensure staff extend the learning opportunities for more able children.
- The nursery brochure to give parents details for the educational provision.

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.