



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 253203

DfES Number: 596572

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/03/2004
Inspector Name Helen Clark

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Arnold House Day Nursery
Setting Address Mansfield Road
Daybrook
Arnold
Nottinghamshire
NG5 6HW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Janet Barbara Budden

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

Arnold House Day Nursery opened in April 1999 and operates from a large detached property in Daybrook, on a main route into Nottingham City centre. The nursery has separate areas for each age group including a baby and young toddler section on the ground floor and older toddlers and preschool on the first floor. The nursery also has a large enclosed outdoor play area and indoor soft play room.

There are 107 children on roll between three months and eight years. This includes 16 funded 3-year-olds and 9 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The nursery has systems in place to support children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 07:30 until 18:00. The nursery also offers after school and holiday care and collects children from the local schools.

There are 18 staff who work directly with the children. Over half the staff have recognized early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. There are six staff currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The nursery receives support from a specialist teacher from the Nottinghamshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. The nursery is a member of The National Day Nurseries Association.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Arnold House Day Nursery provides good quality nursery education where children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. Staff give high priority to promoting children's personal and emotional development. This in turn gives the children the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning. Staff have a good understanding of the foundation stage and how children progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals. Staff are very observant and make regular assessments of children's development. They plan an effective curriculum that is varied in content and flexible enough to follow children's interests and wants. Staff use their time well and most of the resources are used effectively. There are systems in place to support children with special educational needs and English as an additional language. Children's behaviour is managed well and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

Leadership and management is very good. The setting benefits from clear leadership and good teamwork from staff. The setting is committed to continual improvement through regular evaluation and feedback from parents, staff and other professionals. Training needs are identified and staff are encouraged to regularly update their knowledge and skills.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are actively encouraged to share what they know about their child and make contributions towards their child's development records. Daily discussions and regular open weeks ensures parents are fully informed about their child's progress. Welcome packs, newsletters and notice boards keep parents up to date with information about the setting and its provision.

What is being done well?

- The setting benefits from effective teaching. Staff work well as a team and communication is good. They provide the children with an environment that is well planned and well organised.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children respond well to directed tasks and enjoy having responsibility such as helping tidy away or hand out snack. They have the confidence to initiate their own play and learning and seek out others to explore their environment.
- Staff fully support all aspects of children's communication and language. Children are confident speakers and are excellent listeners.

What needs to be improved?

- the effective use of reference books available for children to locate information and support their learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Improvement since the last inspection has been very good. Only one point for consideration was raised at the last inspection which was to fully exploit everyday situations to develop children's mathematical knowledge.

All staff have attended relevant training to increase their knowledge and develop ways to ensure maths is given high priority. Staff plan more hands on practical experiences to encourage children's understanding of mathematical concepts and problem solving. Everyday routines such as mealtimes are used effectively to reinforce children's understanding of number and counting.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have a sense of belonging as they know the routine of the day well and have formed good relationships with adults and peers. The older children are able to work in a group, take turns and share. All children concentrate well and have very good listening skills. Their behaviour is good and they are polite and well mannered. Their independence is developing well and they show enthusiasm at taking responsibility for simple tasks. All children show a positive attitude to learning.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children make marks and use writing for a variety purposes. Many 4-year-olds can write their own name and other recognisable letters. They show an understanding about the elements of a book and that all print carries meaning. Most children recognise their own name and those of other familiar children. Children communicate well and are confident speakers. They initiate conversations and use talk in imaginary situations. The 4-year-olds confidently recognise rhyme in the spoken word.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Most 3-year-olds count confidently up to five objects and some go beyond. The 4-year-old children are developing an understanding of larger numbers beyond ten. Children use mathematical language to describe their creations such as big and little. They recognise and match a variety of shapes in activities and their environment. They show an interest in number problems and are developing an understanding of mathematical concepts such as simple addition and subtraction.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children look carefully at change as they observe the seasons and plant seeds. They explore and investigate as they visit local places of interest and question what happens in windy weather. Children are encouraged to talk about past events and photographic displays prompts discussion. Children have access to programmable toys and equipment to support their learning. Topics and themes help children gain an awareness of other cultures and beliefs and significant personal events are acknowledged.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move confidently, they are competent at running, jumping and climbing. Their co-ordination is good as they practice skills such as balancing, throwing and catching. They move creatively and freely during regular dance sessions and use movement to express their feelings. Children are developing a good understanding of health and bodily awareness and demonstrate increasing skill when using mark making equipment and tools.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are very imaginative in role play, art and dance. They are very expressive as they act out real and imagined experiences. They show an interest in what they see and do and communicate their thoughts and feelings appropriately. They regularly explore a variety of materials as they experiment with colour and texture and create models from recycled materials. They are building a repertoire of songs and join in appropriately at singing time. They listen and move to wide range of music.

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;
- ensure effective use is made of reference books, by ensuring children have full access to them to locate information and support their learning.

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.