



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 203797

DfES Number: 519413

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 31/01/2005
Inspector Name Julie Youngman (TCCI)

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Grove Preschool
Setting Address Scout Hut
Villa Road, Stanway
Colchester
Essex
CO3 9RN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Grove Pre-School 1043546

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Grove Pre-School
Address Scout Hut
Villa Road, Stanway
Colchester
Essex
CO3 9RN

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

The Grove Pre-school opened over ten years ago in the existing building and has been running in the Colchester area for over twenty five years. It operates from the Scout Hall, situated in the Stanway area of Colchester. The Grove Pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 35 children from two to five years on roll. This includes a number of funded 3 and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a small number of children with special needs and who speak English as a second language.

The group opens five days a week during term time only. Sessions are from 09:15 to 11.45 every morning and 12:30 to 15:00 four afternoons per week.

Eight members of staff work with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to N.V.Q. level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision of nursery education at Grove

Pre-School is of good quality overall. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in personal, social and emotional development, communication language and literacy and physical development, and generally good progress in all other areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff interact well with children and behaviour is good. Staff work well as a team and understand their roles and responsibilities in developing children's learning. Staff question children skilfully and so help children to think for themselves and extend their knowledge and understanding. The key worker system is effective, working closely with parents to progress children's learning. There are regular planning meetings and children are assessed by key workers. However, plans do not always have a clear learning focus. The system of record keeping is limited and information does not always transfer to the learning focus of the plans.

Leadership and management is generally good. There is good teamwork and much informal exchange of information where staff review practice. Staff meet regularly to contribute ideas and discuss what works well, which is effective in helping the children to progress. Staff are committed to the improvement of care and education for the children.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are pleased with their children's progress and find staff very approachable. They discuss issues informally with staff and are well informed through various means. They are involved in their child's learning as most parents take part in a rota, helping at the preschool for one or two sessions a term. They also see their children's assessment folders regularly and are encouraged to share what they know about their children, which has a positive effect on the children's learning.

What is being done well?

- Children's physical skills are being promoted effectively through a stimulating range of activities to improve large and small muscle control.
- The partnership with parents is effective in helping children to reach the early learning goals. Parents feel involved in their children's learning.
- Staff are very effective in stimulating the children's ideas and imagination and extending their role play.

What needs to be improved?

- aspects of the planning
- the system of assessment.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made very good progress in responding to the key issue raised at the last inspection.

Parents are invited to help on a regular basis and are encouraged to share what they know about their child. They are more fully involved in their children's learning.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children are confident and interested in learning. They behave well, being lively and active and yet being able to sit quietly and concentrate when appropriate. They understand they must share or wait for a turn and their social play is very well developed, with many children getting involved in an imaginary bus ride. They are gaining personal independence and help each other at snack time handing out drinks, with older children sometimes pouring them. They are encouraged to make decisions.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

The children are confident and communicate well with staff and with each other. They listen and contribute to stories and are able to handle books correctly and talk about what is going to happen in the story. Children turn pages and enjoy looking at the pictures. They are all learning to recognise their names and the older children can do this and link sounds and letters. They can identify words beginning with the same initial letter, and some children can write or trace their names correctly.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children learn to count and gain an understanding of number in practical play and structured activities. They talk about numbers in their imaginative play and initiate games involving numbers and number rhymes. The children are learning about mathematical language and shapes, size and position in practical ways but the opportunities to consolidate ideas on simple calculation or to use mathematical ideas to solve problems are limited.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are able to explore and investigate using their sense of touch and sight. They explore texture of materials and skin using a magnifying glass to compare the skin on their hands with that of an older person. They use a feely bag while staff extend their language. They know that living things need water and have opportunities and equipment to find out about the properties of sand and water. They can use a tape recorder, however, they have limited opportunities to use a computer.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have access to climbing and rocking equipment through most of the session. They take part in energetic, physical play pushing pushchairs, skipping, jumping and controlling tricycles as they turn corners and avoid bumping into each other. Staff encourage practice of ball skills inside or sometimes outside. Fine muscle control is improved through manipulating small world toys and a range of equipment. They gain skills using tools such as paint brushes or rolling pins.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children explore colour through painting freely and other art activities. They learn about colour, texture and shape. They make up situations using the many resources and dressing up clothes or simply using their imagination and enjoy different kinds of role play. They join in songs and circle games and can use a tape recorder but there are limited opportunities for creative dance and for exploring sounds or how they can be changed, repeated or made into patterns.

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

- ensure that the learning intentions are clearly defined in the planning
- develop the assessment systems and ensure they are used to inform the planning of the next steps in the children's learning programme.

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.