



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 318113

DfES Number: 535019

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/11/2004
Inspector Name	Paula Fretwell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Hobby Horse Day Nursery
Setting Address	Mrs Margaret Cavanagh Meadow Croft, Mosham Road, Blaxton Doncaster South Yorkshire DN9 3AZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Margaret Cavanagh
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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

Hobby Horse Day Nursery is a privately owned nursery situated on the outskirts of the small village of Blaxton, near Doncaster.

Children aged up to five attend the nursery. They have access to two main ground floor playrooms, one for babies under two and the other for children aged from two to five. An additional area on the first floor is used by both groups of children. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas and the nursery is set in extensive grounds including open fields. Children have access to some of the owners animals including chickens and dogs.

The nursery opens from 08:00 to 18:00 on Monday to Friday for fifty-one weeks of the year apart from bank holidays. The nursery is registered for 24 children and there are four, three-year-old children in receipt of educational funding. There are seven staff, five of whom have appropriate childcare qualifications, and the setting receives some support from the local authority.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Hobby Horse Day Nursery provides good quality education to all children, and they are making generally good progress overall towards the early learning goals. They make very good progress in personal social and emotional development, communication language and literacy, mathematics, knowledge and understanding of the world and physical development. Generally good progress is made in creative development.

The quality of teaching is generally good and ensures children are making enthusiastic progress through the stepping stones. Staff have positive relationships with children, which promotes their learning, and effective questioning is used to encourage children to think and express themselves.

The accommodation and resources are mostly well organised and this enables children to make many independent choices, and attempt self chosen challenges. Staff provide a good range of planned activities for children to reinforce and practice skills in most areas of learning. Staff record children's progress, although this is not used to inform the planning. Children demonstrate good standards of behaviour and their self esteem is promoted through praise and encouragement given consistently by staff.

Leadership and management is effective and there is clear commitment to the care and education of the children. Staff are encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities. The nursery receives support from the advisory teacher from the local authority, however there are no effective systems in place to monitor the effectiveness of nursery education.

Partnership with parents is good which has a positive effect upon children's learning. Information about the setting is given to parents, although there is limited information given about the early learning goals and children's progress through the stepping stones. Parents are encouraged to share what they know about their child and they receive regular information from staff on a daily basis.

What is being done well?

- Children are confident, eager and motivated. Their behaviour, manners and social skills are very good, and relationships between children and staff are positive and secure. Staff interact well with children, they work and play alongside them and use good questioning skills to extend their thinking and vocabulary.
- Children's communication, language and literacy is promoted well. Children speak confidently and older children make good progress with literacy, identifying initial sounds of familiar words.

- Leadership and management is effective and there is a strong enthusiasm and commitment to the care and education of the children.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to use their own imagination and express themselves in art and design
- the link between observations of children's progress and the planning of activities
- the system for monitoring and evaluating the provision for nursery education
- information given to parents about the early learning goals and their child's progress through the stepping stones.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Generally good progress has been made since the last inspection. Staff are in post who have knowledge of the foundation stage and the early learning goals, and plans identify learning outcomes. There has been some revision of the assessment and recording procedures, however, a weakness still remains as there is no link between what children can do and the planning of future activities. Technological resources to support children's learning are in place and used effectively.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have excellent personal and social skills. They are very confident and secure in their environment and eagerly join in activities with enthusiasm. Children are confident at forming relationships and interact well with adults and peers. Children behave well, using manners and good social skills in their play. Children enjoy group activities, demonstrate skills in co-operation and turn-taking, and show independence and responsibility for simple tasks within the daily routine.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's spoken and written communication is developing very well, children engage in conversations with confidence, use good vocabulary, speak clearly and listen well. Children are beginning to link sounds and letters, for example, they recognise and sound out letters of the alphabet. Children select and enjoy a wide range of books and show understanding that print carries meaning. Children access tools for writing, use the mark making area well and begin to write recognisable letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can count confidently to five, and more able children can reliably count to 10 and beyond. They use number names and recognise numerals. Children are developing a basic understanding of addition and subtraction in practical ways and planned activities. They use good mathematical language to describe and compare numbers, shape, position and size when talking about everyday objects. Children notice, recognise and talk about simple patterns in their play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children show curiosity and they enjoy exploration and discovery within the environment, such as finding worms and spiders, and a good range of experiences promotes their progress well. Children know how to use simple everyday equipment. Children talk with confidence about themselves and their families, and have a developing sense of time. Their awareness of other cultures is developing through a range of planned activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move confidently in a range of ways indoors and outdoors, have an increasing awareness of space and show respect for other children's personal space when playing together. Children skilfully select and use a wide range of small and large equipment with increasing control and co-ordination, and they persevere in repeating skills learned. They show an awareness of healthy practices with regard to eating, sleeping and hygiene, and demonstrate a good knowledge of their own physical needs.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children experience a range of planned creative craft activities, although there are limited opportunities and challenges to use their imagination for their own purpose in art and design. There are regular opportunities for children to explore sound and sound patterns in singing and musical activities, and they contribute with enjoyment. Children are aware of all their senses and are enthusiastic about what they see, hear, feel and smell around them. They engage spontaneously in imaginary play.

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

- provide opportunities for children to use their own imagination and express themselves in art and design
- develop a link between observations of children's progress and the planning of activities
- devise effective systems for monitoring and evaluating the provision for nursery education
- improve information given to parents about the early learning goals and their child's progress through the stepping stones.

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.