



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 110075

DfES Number: 580476

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/11/2004
Inspector Name	Judith Margaret Reed

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Rainbows End Playgroup
Setting Address	Sir John Moore Barracks, Andover Road Winchester Hampshire SO22 6NQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Rainbows End Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Rainbows End Playgroup
Address	Sir John Moore Barracks Andover Road Winchester Hampshire SO22 6NQ

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

Rainbows End Preschool opened in 1983. It operates from Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester and serves the local community.

There are currently 20 children from two to five years on roll. This includes 14 funded three year olds and no funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group support children who have special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times from 08:00 to 18:00. Children may attend any of the following sessions - 08:00 to 09:00, 09:00 to 12:00 or to 13:00, 09:00 to 15:00 and 15:00 to 18:00.

Three permanent staff work with the children, all have early years qualifications or experience. One member of staff is currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYCDP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Rainbow's End pre school provision of nursery education is acceptable and of good quality. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Children make very good progress in personal social and emotional development, communication language and literacy, mathematical, physical and creative development. Children make generally good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff have good knowledge of individual children and praise and encourage them, increasing confidence and self esteem. They have a good understanding of how children learn. Staff plan and provide a good range of activities. Relationships are good and staff have high expectations of behaviour, encourage independence and concentration. Staff make regular assessments of children's development and keep parents informed about their children's progress. Currently plans do not show extension activities for more able children and targets for all six areas of development are not included.

Leadership and management is generally good. The staff work well as a team and clear communication allows them to provide a stimulating programme for children. Management continuously evaluate the quality of provision through children's achievements, although further evaluation of individual activities is not completed. There is currently no staff appraisal system in place.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff provide a welcoming and supportive environment where parents feel comfortable in communicating their ideas and concerns about their child's learning through informal and formal meetings. Parents are well informed about the pre school, it's routines and activities provided through notices and regular newsletters. Parents are kept up to date about their child's achievements and progress through termly written reports.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. They are confident, have established good relationships and play an active part in their learning.
- Children's progress in mathematics is developing very well. Many opportunities are provided throughout the day to extend children's knowledge and understanding of numbers, size and shape.
- Staff question children effectively, encouraging them to think and contribute their own ideas.
- Staff make good use of the local environment to help children explore the natural world, learn about people and places and become familiar with their immediate surroundings.

What needs to be improved?

- planning to ensure all children are able to achieve in all six areas of learning
- opportunities to extend learning for more able children and provide challenge
- opportunities for children to use ICT on a regular basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The pre school has made very good progress since the last inspection. One key issue called for reorganisation of story time to promote listening skills and behaviour. Staff have considered the reorganisation of group story time and find this difficult due to the size of the premises. Although story time is still carried out in a large group format children who are disruptive, or bored are now offered an alternative activity such as colouring and drawing. Staff find this works well. The other key issue was regarding opportunities and behaviour while playing outside.

The outdoor play area has been reorganised and the play surfaces have been improved. There is a wide path with an oval route for bicycles, as well as two areas of grass. One grassed, fenced area has more adventurous equipment for swinging, climbing, crawling and balancing. The second area is used for temporary equipment and low level climbing, sliding and crawling. Children are able to choose their activity and behaviour is good.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have high levels of self esteem and are encouraged to display their work. They are keen to learn and make choices, and are actively involved in their own learning. Children work well independently and co operate well when working as a group during snack time and in construction activities. Children develop good relationships with adults and other children in the pre school. Children's behaviour is good and they are praised and encouraged throughout their activities.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Most children are effective communicators. They learn to negotiate and express feelings and thoughts through such activities as role play and during circle time. Children's language is developing well and opportunities are given for them to practice writing in a number of situations including imaginative and role play areas. Children are questioned effectively and encouraged to think and contribute their own ideas. They enjoy books and handle them with care.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are confident in using number for counting and most count to 10. Children learn about addition and subtraction through practical activities and singing songs such as "Five currant buns". They are confident in recognising and using numbers 1-9 in a familiar context and when completing the calendar daily. Children learn how to use numbers in everyday situations and show that they understand size and shape through practical activities like craft and construction.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children explore and investigate the natural world growing bulbs, observing seasons and insects found locally. They learn about the local environment through topic work and walks within the army barracks. Children demonstrate excellent cutting and joining skills and use appropriate materials and tools competently, for example model making with a range of equipment. Opportunities to use information technology are limited.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children demonstrate a good sense of space and move confidently during physical play activities. They enjoy frequent opportunities to use the range of outdoor play equipment which provides a good choice of climbing, swinging, jumping, sliding, balancing, cycling and crawling activities. Children are skilled at using paper, card, recycled materials, scissors and glue for cutting and joining.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children respond with all their senses to many experiences, for example tasting and smelling food and touching a range of contrasting textures. They enjoy impromptu singing opportunities as well as planned singing and regularly explore sound and music. Daily art and craft activities are organised and children are able to choose their own materials to create pictures and models. Children are encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas through role play and small world 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

- ensure that planning includes aims for all six areas of learning
- provide opportunities, and include in planning, extension activities for more able children
- ensure that planning within the setting includes regular use of ICT.

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.