



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 221571

DfES Number: 580239

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/11/2004
Inspector Name	Julie Youngman (TCCI)

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	The Old School House Day Nursery
Setting Address	The Old School House, 69 High Street Stetchworth Newmarket Suffolk CB8 9TH

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Care To Learn Limited 351660
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Care To Learn Limited
Address	The Old School House 69 High Street, Stetchworth Newmarket Suffolk CB8 9TH

## 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 Old School House Day Nursery was established in 1994 and is privately owned and managed by Linda Baston-Pitt and Ian Pimley. It is located in an old Victorian school building in the village of Stetchworth, approximately 2 miles from Newmarket. Most of the children attending live in Stetchworth or its neighbouring villages and go on to attend the local Kettlefields Primary school, but some children come from further a field.

The nursery is registered to provide day care for a maximum of 80 children and is open each weekday between 08:15 and 18:00 for 51 weeks a year. The nursery comprises 3 main areas: the baby room, the nursery room and the schoolroom. A covered centre courtyard also provides soft play opportunities for groups of children. There is a range of facilities for outdoor play.

A supernumerary operational and deputy manager oversees a staff team of 25, the majority of whom are qualified to level 2 or 3. The nursery is a registered NVQ training and assessment centre.

The Old School House Day Nursery receives funding for 3 and 4 year olds and currently provides care for children with Special Educational Needs and 3 for whom English is an additional language.

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

### **How effective is the nursery education?**

The provision nursery education at Old School House Day Nursery is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff demonstrate a very good understanding of children's development, supporting individual children's learning effectively for both three and four year olds. Practical, worthwhile, daily activities provide very good opportunities for the children to develop skills in language, literacy, mathematics, knowledge and understanding of the world alongside creativity, imagination and physical development. Effective, overall planning includes key experiences in the High Scope system, identified alongside the stepping stones for the six areas of learning. Children's understanding is effectively supported by the excellent conversations and interactions. The effective assessment system is based on daily, shared observations which are recorded by the effective key worker system which monitors children's achievements and progress.

Leadership and management is very good and a strength of the provision. Regular staff meetings and commitment to staff training ensure the ongoing and successful development of the educational programme.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents appreciate the flexibility of the provision. They are kept well informed generally and share information effectively and regularly with staff.

### **What is being done well?**

- Children benefit from excellent relationships with staff and this helps them to become independent, confident and motivated learners.
- Staff provide well planned topics and many very good, practical activities to help the children begin to work in small groups and independently.
- Children are provided with a large variety and range of resources and are encouraged to choose and mix them imaginatively.
- Staff use excellent strategies to promote good behaviour.
- Very good leadership, training and management, ensure ongoing curriculum and staff development.

### **What needs to be improved?**

- information provided for parents about the topics, festivals and celebrations to be covered during each term

<b>What has improved since the last inspection?</b>
<p>Very good progress has been made since the last inspection and standards have been maintained and enhanced by the owner's involvement in the High Scope training scheme, ensuring a high quality educational programme.</p> <p>Staff report that all the children now have name cards with picture symbols of their own so that they can begin to copy or write their own names. Displays demonstrate the good quality of early literacy achieved by the children and show how children's work is valued.</p>

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Excellent relationships support children's learning. Children are confident, independent and motivated learners. They respond to staff expectations and understand the need for rules, developing good self care and personal independence. They work very well in small groups and concentrate, listening to each other talking. Festivals help them to learn about other cultures. They treat each other and toys with respect.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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The excellent quality of teaching ensures that children's early language and literacy skills are developed very well in free play activities, especially in the post office corner. Staff help them to think, learn new words, express themselves clearly and talk about their own experiences. They write for a purpose, making lists, envelopes and story books. The three-year-olds are beginning to write their own names and the four-year-olds are beginning to record whole words.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Very good opportunities for the children to count, recognise numbers and solve problems are incorporated into many of the free play and group activities. Practical group activities such as snack time are used very well to help children compare numbers and begin to explore addition and subtraction.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Many excellent topics, practical activities and festivals are provided, helping children to develop good general knowledge. Regular visits to the community provide very good opportunities for the children to learn about their world and the environment. A good variety and range of technology helps children to find out about everyday things and further develop literacy and mathematical skills on the computer.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Good use of the accommodation and outside space with varied, interesting and appropriate resources, help to promote all aspects of children's physical development.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
All aspects of children's art, craft and creative skills are promoted by a wide variety of interesting activities in two and three dimensions. Freedom to choose materials independently promotes children's imaginative skills very well. Planning provides regular opportunities to experience music, movement and dance.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	

### **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:
- information provided for parents about the topics and activities that may be covered during each term in the general displays.

*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.*