



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109128

DfES Number: 530036

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 13/12/2004
Inspector Name Karen Louise Prager

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name The Trees Day Care Nursery
Setting Address Trees, Quarry Road
Old Town
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 4EN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of White Horse Child Care Ltd 2435142

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name White Horse Child Care Ltd
Address Stanley House
65 Victoria Road
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 3BB

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

Trees Day Care Nursery is owned by the White Horse Childcare Ltd and has been registered since 1990. The nursery has 9 playrooms, kitchen, office, staff room, staff toilets, children's toilets, milk kitchen and 3 nappy change areas. There is also a fully enclosed garden which is included in the registration. It is situated in a quiet road off the main road in Old Town. The nursery serves the wider area of Swindon.

There are currently 80 children from birth to 8 years on roll. This includes 16 funded three-year-olds and 21 funded four-year-olds. Children attend both full and part time. The nursery supports children who have special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 to 18:00.

Twelve full time and ten part time staff work with the children. Fourteen have early years qualifications. Staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership(EYDCP). The nursery is also a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Trees Day Care Nursery offers good quality nursery education overall which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Progress in personal, social and emotional development is very good.

Teaching is generally good. Staff facilitate and plan a range of activities that help children progress well along the stepping stones in all six areas of learning. They know the children well, although effective systems to observe and assess children are not in place. Planning does not always link to assessment of the children and so limits the extension of children's play and learning sufficiently. Staff are deployed effectively and work well as a team.

Leadership and management are generally good. The manager is competent and has clear and appropriate aims. She demonstrates a commitment to the continual improvement of the provision for children attending the nursery. However the staff are less confident at identifying areas for growth within themselves and the setting. The setting is well organised with very good range of recourses provided, although they are not always well used.

The partnership with parents and carers is generally good. Parents receive good information about the educational provision of the group. Staff and parents regularly exchange information about the children. However parents are not formally included in developing children's play opportunities.

What is being done well?

- Children form good relationships with their peers and are developing a good level of confidence and personal independence.
- Very good relationships are established between the parents and staff, and parents are well informed about the activities their child is involved with on a daily basis.
- Children are confident speakers and communicate very well through conversation and group activities.
- Children gain a good understanding of cultures and beliefs through a range of activities covering a range of customs and beliefs.

What needs to be improved?

- More systematic observation and assessment of children to enable the appropriate development of children.
- The effective use of time and resources including in the outdoor play area, book corner and access to self selected activities.

- Increased opportunities for children to develop mathematical awareness and calculation in particular.
- Creativity, to encourage more spontaneity and imagination in the children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Generally good progress has been made since the last inspection.

The staff promote generally calm and appropriate behaviour at group times by encouraging the children to listen attentively and take turns when offering their own ideas. Children are now able to sit and listen as a group and generally observe group boundaries very well.

Most staff now question children's thinking more regularly through questioning in individual conversations, small group work and large group activities.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are very settled and confident within the group. They play well individually and in small and large groups. They behave well and have an understanding of right and wrong. They are motivated to learn and are developing good concentration skills. Children are familiar with the everyday routines of the group and are developing personal independence through everyday routines. They are caring and supportive of other members of the group and form good relationships with their peers.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident speakers and will talk about their activities. They are developing a love of books, enjoy listening to stories and are developing an understanding that print carries meaning. Children recognise their own name and are making links between letters and the sounds they make. Children make few links to writing in other activities throughout the day.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have some opportunities to practise counting and are also encouraged to recognise numerals. Children frequently explore shape through construction and increasingly develop their understanding of shapes. They are able to understand positional instructions, for example behind, next to. There are less opportunities to develop their understanding of number operations or solve simple problems.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy building with construction toys. They are able to use a range of tools with increasing skill and there is regular access to computers. Through everyday activities, children are learning about the patterns within the day. There are limited opportunities for children to design and construct using a variety of media. They are gaining a good awareness of many different traditions.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children move safely and increasingly confidently both indoors and outdoors. Regular physical activities help them to develop generally good co-ordination and skills in using a range of equipment such as construction and tricycles. Children use a range of tools and materials with increasing control and an awareness of safety, for example using a computer mouse. Through food and outdoor play they have regular opportunities to develop their understanding of healthy eating and bodily awareness.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children regularly enjoy using different media to explore form and colour and they create pictures and models in two and three dimensions. They use a variety of props to enhance their story telling and role-play and enjoy using musical instruments to accompany singing. However there are limited opportunities for children to spontaneously develop their own ideas creatively.

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

- More systematically observe and assess the children to enable appropriate planning to promote the children's development.
- Make more effective use of time and resources within the setting.
- Extend children's mathematical awareness and creativity.

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.