



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 134443

DfES Number: 520245

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 23/02/2004
Inspector Name Jane Melissa Hull

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name North Leigh Pre-School
Setting Address Park Road
North Leigh
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX29 6SS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of North Leigh Pre-School 269759

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name North Leigh Pre-School
Address Park Road
North Leigh
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX29 6SS

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

North Leigh Pre-school is located in a new portacabin set in the grounds of North Leigh Primary School. The group is run by a supervisor, two staff and an occasional parent helper. Running times are from 8:45-11:30 each morning and additional sessions on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 12.25 to 14.55. Afternoon sessions are for the rising 5's. The group's registration is for a maximum of 20 children aged 3-5 years. Strong links are made with school and the children are taken across to the school hall once a week for P.E. The Rising 5 group also join the reception class for story time.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The nursery education at North Leigh Pre-School is very good. Children are making very good progress in all six areas of learning. However, they make limited use of the technological equipment available. Children are confident and happy in the visually stimulating and caring environment. They are developing independence and are excited and motivated to learn.

The quality of teaching is very good. The staff work hard to create a learning environment which is rich in print and number and which encourages exploration and investigation. Records of children's progress are used to inform planning. Planning for both three and four year olds is undertaken which ensures that more able children are sufficiently challenged. Some staff miss learning opportunities for three year olds and the regular "news" sessions are lengthy, resulting in some children becoming restless. Staff manage children's behaviour well and have high expectations.

Leadership and management is very good. The management team are clear in their roles and responsibilities and work well as a team. Effective systems are in place to monitor and evaluate both the provision for nursery education and the quality of the teaching. The management and staff team are committed to improving the care and education for all children and have effective systems in place to review and develop their practice.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents receive good quality information about the setting and what their children are doing. A parent's rota is one example of opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's learning. Termly parents' evenings enable information about children to be formally shared which complements the daily informal chats enjoyed by parents and staff.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a happy and caring environment in which children are interested, excited and motivated to learn. The visually stimulating play areas are rich in print and number. Low level displays and the storage of equipment and toys encourages children to investigate, explore and be self-sufficient.
- Parents are provided with good quality information about the setting and what their children are doing. They have various opportunities to be involved in their children's learning. Parents' evenings held each term enable staff and parents to formally share information about children's progress.
- Staff use assessments of children's progress to plan a varied range of play and learning opportunities. The delivery of the curriculum ensures that children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

- Effective leadership and management ensures that standard of nursery education and quality of teaching are monitored and reviewed. The management team and staff are committed to continually improving the care and education for all children. Staff hold regular meetings, undergo appraisals and attend training programmes to aid their professional development.

What needs to be improved?

- children's use of the computer
- "news" sessions, to ensure the time is used effectively for all children
- encouragement for three year olds to practise their writing skills with adult support.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection manageable systems of planning and assessing children's progress have been introduced. To address the issue of providing more opportunities for children to use technological equipment, a computer has been obtained. However, as children make limited use of this equipment volunteers are currently being sought to support children in its use.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, interested and excited to learn. They are developing independence and enjoy selecting their preferred toys and equipment within the well-organised learning environment. Children are developing self-confidence and self-esteem and are able to express their ideas and feelings. Children behave well, are learning right from wrong and are forming good relationships. Children are developing a sense of community. They enjoy regular trips and contact with the adjacent primary school.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are cared for in an environment which is rich in print. They enjoy stories and use the well-organised and resourced, book area. They are developing their listening skills but become restless during the routine "news" sessions. Children enjoy free access to writing equipment and write for a variety of purposes. Four year olds are able to form recognisable letters and many write their names correctly. Children are confident communicators and are constantly extending their vocabulary.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are cared for in an environment which is rich in number. They practise mathematics in most activities and enjoy songs and practical activities linked to mathematical concepts. Children are very confident in number work, with older children being able to count beyond thirteen and recognising numerals up to ten. Children are learning the concepts of shape, size, quantity and position, and are developing an understanding of calculation.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are cared for in a stimulating environment which encourages exploration and investigation. They identify and find out about living things and objects and enjoy learning about their local community and the world beyond. Children are developing a sense of time. They build and design with a range of equipment and resources, but make limited use of the computer. Children are learning about the beliefs, customs and cultures of others and enjoy marking festivals from around the world.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy regular opportunities to practise movement and the use of equipment. They are developing an awareness of space and are able to travel under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment. They are developing their fine manipulative skills using a range of tools such as scissors and threading equipment. Children are learning about health issues. They prepare healthy snacks and are learning about how their bodies work.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy musical instruments and lots of singing. They use their imagination in dance, stories and role play, which is effectively used by staff to teach children about the world. Children explore a range of materials, colour, texture and form. They undertake an extensive range of art and craft activities in which they are able to use their imagination. Children are encouraged to use their senses and explore foods and objects with interest and wonder.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

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:
- review the "news" sessions, to ensure that the needs and abilities of all children are taken into account
- encourage children to make good use of the computer.

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.