



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 131691

DfES Number: 531340

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/03/2005
Inspector Name	Alison Joan Wadley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	The Grove
Setting Address	Shepperton House, 83-93 Shepperton Road Islington London N1 3DF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Ms Elaine Catchpole
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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

The Grove Day Nursery was opened in 2001. It operates from a self contained two storey premises situated in a renovated factory building. The group is situated within the London Borough of Islington. It serves families from Islington and the neighbouring Borough of Hackney. The premises are within walking distance of London Transport.

There are currently 50 children from 0 to 5 years on roll. These include 17 funded 3 year olds and 0 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. At present, there are no children with special educational needs.

The group opens five days per week, all year round. Sessions are from 07:00 until 19:00.

There are 19 full time staff working with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). Teaching methods are based on the philosophy of Froebel Montessori and Reggio Emilia.

Overnight care is not provided.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The children at The Grove are making very good progress in all six areas of the foundation stage.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. Managers provide regular supervision and meetings and encourage staff to utilise ongoing training initiatives. The manager and staff are consistent in their implementation of the curriculum and managers regularly monitor and evaluate the provision and children's progress to address any weaknesses identified.

The quality of teaching is very good and staff are very caring and supportive of the children. Behaviour is well managed and the children enthused by the activities on offer. Staff work well as a team and utilise their individual skills and knowledge of contemporary childcare to provide a well rounded curriculum. The children particularly benefit from one to one activities with staff they know very well. Staff demonstrate a clear knowledge and understanding of the stepping stones and plan a varied and stimulating programme of learning which is integral to children's play. Well written plans together with effective questioning is used to stretch the children's potential in each learning area. They regularly observe the children and use this information well to provide suitable challenge and support for children's individual ability and interest.

The nursery works well with parents and carers and regularly informs them of their children's progress. Information about the nursery is clearly written and includes notices and newsletters to keep them informed of daily activities. Parents and carers are welcomed in to the nursery and often attend social events and cultural celebrations.

What is being done well?

- Children's independence and decision making is encouraged well and as a result the children demonstrate increasing confidence and ownership of their environment.
- Staffs' individual skills and knowledge is utilised well to support children's progress through the stepping stones.
- Staff use observation and assessment information well to provide a varied and balanced curriculum, which meets the needs and interests of individual children.

What needs to be improved?

- The nursery should aim to maintain current good standards.

What has improved since the last inspection?
N/A This is the nursery's first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in personal, social and emotional development is very good. They show increasing independence and ownership of their environment. They talk freely and have an increasing awareness of their own and others needs. Children behave well and show care for nursery resources. Concentration levels are good. They form good relationships with adults and peers and respond well to a varied and interesting curriculum.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in communication, language and literacy is very good. Children listen and respond well to a range of stories and discussions and show a growing vocabulary. They use talk in imaginary situations and increasingly to clarify their ideas, for example through role play. Children demonstrate a growing enjoyment of books. They recognise rhymes well and that print carries meaning. They are becoming confident using tools and show skills in early writing for a range of purposes.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in mathematics is very good. They demonstrate an increasing ability to problem solve using concentrated efforts to identify the properties of shape, balance and buoyancy for example. They enjoy rhymes and are increasingly able to match and make patterns in relation to colour and form. Children show curiosity about numbers and often count. They are beginning to record and calculate in relation to weight and length when exploring objects around the nursery.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. Children show interest in the world in which they live and are beginning to ask worthwhile questions and identify features which are important to them. They are increasingly aware of other cultures and religions. Children explore and investigate objects and materials, often making collections and photographing events. They make good independent use of technology to support their learning.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in physical development is very good. Children move freely with increasing confidence, balance on stilts, move their bodies in soft play areas and coordinate challenging climbing resources. They show an awareness of their own health and safety. Children manipulate materials imaginatively and handle tools with increasing confidence to support activities such as drawing, cutting and constructing models.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in creative development is very good. The children respond well to a varied and sensory environment. They join in with creative music, movement and dance, play out imaginative stories through role play and enjoy listening to a range of music. Children paint and create models to express their feelings and ideas and have good opportunities to explore colour and respond to sound making equipment, taste and texture.

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:

- Maintain current good standards.

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.