



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315998

DfES Number: 522203

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/01/2004
Inspector Name Jannet Mary Richards

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Rainbow Childrens Nursery
Setting Address 26-28 Eastbourne Grove
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 5LH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Karrey Ann & Christopher Cotton
Address 26-28 Eastbourne Grove
Bolton
Lancashire
BL1 5LH

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

Rainbow Children's Nursery opened in 1987. The premises consist of two converted houses in the Heaton area of Bolton. There are a total of eight rooms available for the children, and a secure outdoor play area. The nursery provides care and education for children from a wide area. There are currently a total of 54 children on roll, this includes 11 three year old and 4 nursery education funded four year old children. There a small number of children who have English as an additional language. The nursery supports children who have special needs. The nursery opens from 08:00 to 18:00 for 51 weeks of the year. Children attend for a variety of full and part-time sessions. A total of nine staff work with the children, all of whom hold early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Rainbow Children's Nursery provides good care for children.

The established manager and staff team understand and follow effective procedures which enable the nursery to run smoothly. The qualified and skilled staff show good commitment to development by attending short courses which keep them up to date with current practice.

The staff get to know the children very well. They are patient, calm, and very caring. They place good emphasis on fun and enjoyment. Children are respected as individuals and their needs are well met. The staff have a positive approach, they praise the children often to encourage good behaviour. The children benefit from a good range of play activities which are appropriate for their age and interests. They have lots of choice about what they do, and can reach the suitable range of toys and resources easily. The children enjoy a varied and healthy range of meals and snacks.

The nursery is maintained to a high level of safety and cleanliness. The staff are very aware of health and hygiene, they supervise children well and follow clear

procedures to keep them safe and well cared for. There are effective systems for informing new staff about safety procedures such as fire drills, though they are not always provided with early opportunities to put them into practice. The nursery rooms are well organised, though nappy change areas do not allow for privacy.

Partnership with parents is good. The staff ensure that they discuss children's needs with parents to provide a consistent approach, and follow babies' own routines for care and feed times for example. Parents are provided with a good range of written material, in addition to discussions with staff which keep them well informed about what the children have been doing during the day. Parents have access to most of the information they need. They speak highly of the provision, they particularly value the homely and welcoming nursery environment.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There were no actions identified for improvement at the last inspection.

What is being done well?

- The staff ensure that children feel secure, happy and their needs are well met. There are good settling in procedures when staff discuss the children's needs and routines with their parents to ensure that children's needs are met according to parent's wishes.
- The staff are caring and patient in their interactions with the children. They support them well during play and encourage good behaviour and positive self esteem through praise and encouragement.
- The children enjoy a good range of play activities appropriate to their age and stage of development. There is good emphasis on fun and enjoyment.
- The premises are clean, safe and well maintained, offering a welcoming and homely environment for children. The staff follow clear procedures for keeping children safe and healthy.
- The children are provided with a good range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements for nappy changing to provide privacy
- the information for parents about how to make a complaint
- the induction procedures for new staff.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
4	Review the arrangements for nappy changing to allow for privacy for the children.
6	Ensure that new staff have opportunities to engage in safety procedures such as fire drills as part of their induction.
12	Ensure that the complaints procedure includes the telephone number of the regulator.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Rainbow Children's Nursery offers good quality provision which helps children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Children make generally good progress in personal social and emotional development, communication, language and literacy, mathematics and physical development. There are strengths in the provision for knowledge and understanding of the world and creative development which help children to make very good progress in these areas.

Teaching is generally good. The staff plan a good range of activities for the children to encourage their progress in all areas, with a mix of adult led and child-initiated activities. They know the children very well, they observe what they do and learn during play and record their progress along the stepping stones. They have recently reviewed the planning and assessments to develop clearer links between what the children know and can do and planning for the next steps in their learning. The staff generally question children well during play to encourage their learning in most areas, they are less skilled at encouraging the children to count and use their mathematical knowledge to solve problems regularly during play and daily routines.

Leadership and management are generally good. The staff have clear roles and responsibilities and work well as a team. They are well supported by the management team who encourage good communication between staff, and development of their skills and knowledge through attendance on training courses.

Partnership with parents is generally good and contributes well to children's progress. Parents are well informed about the activities children are involved in to encourage their progress in each area of learning. Parents are welcome in the setting at all times to discuss children's progress and view assessments and samples of their work.

What is being done well?

- The staff provide children with very good opportunities to develop their knowledge of the local community and people through good first hand experiences such as visits to local shops, the library, and visitors who come to talk to them such as a policeman, nurse, hairdresser.
- Children are provided with a very good range of resources such as collage materials, musical instruments and role play equipment and props which enable them to express their thoughts and ideas in different ways and develop their creativity.
- The staff team work well together, they are clear about their roles in planning a good range of experiences for children and in supporting them during play.

They are very well supported by the management team and have a strong commitment to the continuous development of the provision.

What needs to be improved?

- the frequency of opportunities for children to count and use their knowledge of number during play and daily routines
- the consolidation of the assessment and planning systems to ensure clear links between what the children know and can do and planning activities to encourage the next steps in their learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection two issues were identified for further development.

The first issue was to combine the existing information for the daily and weekly planning to refine the clarity about what each member of staff expects the children to learn from the planned activities. The staff have made good progress on this issue by ensuring that the activity planning links to the stepping stones and by identifying the adult role in specific activities.

The second issue was to extend the long term plans by creating an overview framework to ensure all the desirable learning outcomes are revisited at regular intervals and support the on-going collection of resources for the chosen topics. The staff have made good progress on this issue by developing the medium and long term plans to link more clearly with the stepping stones towards the early learning goals.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children develop a positive disposition to learning. They are confident and settled which helps them to feel secure and participate fully in activities. They develop good independence skills by pouring their own drinks and brushing their own teeth for example, and are able to make choices about the activities they do. They are very polite and respond well to praise and encouragement by generally behaving well.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children communicate well with each other and adults. They discuss what they are doing during play, and recall past events. They enjoy books and stories in the comfortable book area, and use them for reference in other areas, such as a book about buildings in the construction area. They often practice early writing skills for a purpose during play, such as writing lists in the role play office. They learn about letters and sounds often through adult-led activities, and less often during play.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children identify numbers and count to ten during adult-led activities, such as counting wooden blocks at group time, and when singing number songs and rhymes. During the weekly 'number day' they count and use their knowledge of number to solve simple problems during play, but they do not do this routinely at other times. They develop a good understanding of shape, space and measure through planned activities and good questioning from staff during free play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn why and how things happen and observe changes through interesting activities, when observing ice cubes melt and baking bread for example. They use technology such as the computer with confidence and skill. They develop an understanding of time through discussion about routines and days of the week. They have very good opportunities for learning about the world around them through first hand experiences such as local visits and visitors such as a nurse and policeman.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children move confidently within the available play space. They use many good planned opportunities such as weekly dance classes, swimming lessons, and access to the outdoor area to practice and refine their movements, co-ordination and balance. They use a range of equipment and tools such as pencils and scissors, and experiences such as pouring a drink of water to practice and refine their fine motor skills and co-ordination.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use a wide range of resources such as paint and collage materials to experiment and express their own thoughts and ideas. They enjoy music when singing familiar songs and using percussion instruments to explore sounds. They develop their imagination as they play enthusiastically in the stimulating role play areas which are varied often. For example they fish for food beside an igloo, write letters in an office, and make lanterns to decorate the home area at Chinese new year.

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

- Consolidate the newly introduced assessment systems and planning to ensure that clear links are made between what the children know and can do and planning of activities which support the next steps in their learning.
- Provide children with more challenges and questions to develop their knowledge of number and solve simple problems through play and daily routine activities.

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.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.