



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 314137

DfES Number: 510896

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/02/2004
Inspector Name Gianna Ulyatt

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Nursery Time
Setting Address 117 Commercial Street
Willington
Crook
County Durham
DL15 0AA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mr J & Mrs S Brown

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Mr J & Mrs S Brown
Address 1 Hawthorn Mews
Sunderland
Tyne and Wear
SR2 7LF

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 Nursery is situated just off the main road through Willington, within walking distance of local schools and amenities. It is a purpose built building split into 2 floors, ground floor consists of large entrance hall, office, staff room, kitchen, utility, Cubs Room (under 2 years), Brown Bears Room (2 -5 years). The Kids Club is sited upstairs, stairs are situated off entrance hall. Funded children also use this room during the day sessions. There is also a fully enclosed outdoor play area and car park. The Nursery serves the local community. It is open 8 am -6pm and as well as offering full day care, it offers before and after school care and holiday care. It is registered to care for 18 children 0-2 years and 40 children 2-8 years. Children with Special Educational Needs are welcomed. It receives funding for 3 and 4 year olds. There are 3 funded three-year-olds and 1 funded 4 year old attending the setting. None have special educational needs. All speak English at home. The Nursery employs a qualified Manager and Deputy, 6 qualified Nursery Nurses, 4 Assistants, a cook and a cleaner.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Overall the effectiveness of the education has significant weaknesses. Nursery Time provides a warm and welcoming environment. Relationships are good and children are confident with adults. Overall both three-and four-year-olds make progress towards the early learning goals, however this progress is limited by some significant weaknesses. The children make generally good progress in personal, social and emotional development, knowledge and understanding of the world and in physical and creative development. Progress in communication, language and literacy and mathematics have significant areas for improvement. Some children are not challenged enough in their play and learning. Relationships are good, and children are confident with adults. Staff give good emphasis to reading with children individually and in groups developing a love of books. There are some weaknesses in the daily routine and the methods of teaching. Teaching has some significant areas for improvement particularly in areas of communication, language and literacy and mathematics. Staff are beginning to develop assessment procedures, but do not observe children enough to find out exactly what they can do. Resources are adequate, but children do not have enough time during the sessions to engage in their own learning because activities for self-choice are limited. Focused activities are generally good overall. Leadership and management is generally good as they are keen to develop. Staff are encouraged to continue their professional development through training. The management value input from the local authority and are looking to identify areas of the early learning goals which need to be improved. Partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are kept well informed through written and verbal information. They speak regularly with staff about their child, however There is some inconsistency in the way they find out about their child's progress.

What is being done well?

- relationships are very good so children are confident and relaxed in the nursery
- the emphasis on reading is good so children know many stories well

What needs to be improved?

- planning for self-initiated activity to encourage more independence in learning
- opportunities to develop literacy skills
- opportunities to develop mathematical skills

What has improved since the last inspection?

Improvements since the last inspection are limited overall. There have been some improvements to planning and children now have opportunities to develop an awareness of different cultures and beliefs through a range of activities. The nursery remains unclear about how to address monitoring and evaluation of provision. The manager has recently begun to use the services and input of the link teacher, but as yet there is no clear action plan as to how improvements are to be made over time.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children are enthusiastic to participate and patiently wait their turn. Sometimes the lack of self-chosen activity limits learning and children can become bored. Children are confident and staff are caring role models, so there are good relationships throughout. Children are well behaved, but there is an imbalance in planning between directed activity and self-chosen activity. This hinders independence.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

Children learn to speak well with staff and each other. There is good emphasis on books. Children recognise their name, but older children do not attempt to write and use the limited opportunities available to practise letter sounds through regular play activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Significant Weaknesses

The children do not use mathematics in everyday routines and regular planned activities. Children learn to count by rote but they are not able to see numbers displayed to support their learning. Some children recognise shapes but are not able carry out activities to consolidate their understanding. Older children do not learn how to sort and calculate two sets of objects

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

The children handle a range of tools. They bake with staff and see how heat or water changes ingredients. They go on visits and play outside to experience the weather. They learn about other cultures and beliefs and have good opportunities to talk about events from home and their families. The children have limited opportunity to investigate and explore. There are not enough natural items in the environment for children to examine or discover the features.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children visit the park at times. They play outside each day, can control their bodies and move creatively to music. Children are able to use a range of tools including tools in the sand, glue spreaders and brushes. Children become aware of their space and the space of others when playing with apparatus. There is some small apparatus in the nursery to develop hand to eye co-ordination, however learning is limited by the limited amount available.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have good opportunities to respond to their senses when they smell the cheese in the sandwiches they make and when they eat their lunch. They mix corn flour with water and they enjoy dancing to music, singing songs and are confident to carry out solo performance. Displays of children's work show they learn to use paint and textured materials in a creative way. The children use a range of instruments, however the variety of role play equipment is limited.

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

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses. The next inspection will take place in one to two years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- improve planning for self-initiated activities so that the range and quality on offer inspires children to take more responsibility for their own learning
- provide regular activities through play that teach children early literacy skills
- give mathematics a greater emphasis through daily routines

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.