



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 219214

DfES Number: 514520

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/07/2004
Inspector Name Paula Durrant

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Smarteez Neighbourhood Nursery, Goldington
Setting Address 30 Meadway & 27 Downside
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK41 9HU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Goldington Family Centre Management

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Goldington Family Centre Management
Address 30 Meadway & 27 Downside
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK41 9HU

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

Smarteez Neighbourhood Nursery opened in October 2003. It operates from a designated modular terrapin building located within the grounds of Goldington family Centre. The nursery serves the local community in and around the Putnoe and Goldington areas of Bedford.

The group is registered for 43 children aged nought to five years. There are currently 40 children on roll. This includes 20 funded three year olds and 11 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Three children have special needs and there are eight children with English as an additional language.

The group is open five days a week Monday to Friday between the hours of 08:00 until 18:00, 52 weeks of the year with the exception of public holidays.

Thirteen staff work with the children. Ten have early years qualifications. Three staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and are members of the PSLA.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Smarteez Neighbourhood Nursery offers a high quality of nursery education for children who become independent, self motivated learners. Highly effective teaching helps the children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning. A significant feature of this nursery is the way in which staff weave early literacy and numeracy throughout the sessions and the outstanding programme for creative development.

Teaching is very good. The staff have a thorough knowledge and understanding of how children learn. The staff achieve high standards of interaction with children. In this language rich environment, children learn good skills for speaking, listening, reading and writing. Staff ask questions to make children think and respond sensitively to their individual needs. Staff skilfully plan a wide range of interesting and stimulating play based activities which provide an appropriate level of challenge for children. Happy children learn to concentrate well and they develop confidence and self esteem in this well organised group. The assessment of children's learning is manageable, effective and tracks children's progress against the stepping stones. The nursery have a good range of equipment to cover all areas of learning and staff thoughtfully organise resources and furniture to provide a learning environment of high quality.

Leadership and management is very good. Much of the success of the setting is due to the clear vision of the manager who is effectively supported by her staff and the parents. The staff team are committed to improvement through on-going training and have developed effective strategies to continually monitor, evaluate and review their practice.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the work of the nursery.

What is being done well?

- Children are motivated to learn through meaningful and interesting activities which are practical and build on their interests and known experiences.
- Children have varied language skills when they arrive at Smarteez, many have English as an additional language. Staff are adept at developing children's vocabulary and communication skills naturally through practical activities, role play situations and the use of bi-lingual resources. Children learn to listen carefully and have fun.
- Children's imaginations are effectively stimulated through an absorbing range of indoor and outdoor activities that are well organised and carefully presented by staff.

- Qualified and experienced staff are able to interact with children to extend and integrate learning across all six areas of learning.

What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to ensuring
- the maintenance and continued development of the good practice across all areas of learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Smarteez Neighbourhood nursery have made very good progress since their last inspection. The nursery were required to develop links with local primary schools to which children would be attending when leaving the facility. The nursery has employed a school liaison officer, who supports children and parents with the transition from nursery to school. They have also developed good relationships with the local schools in their catchment area and share information from children's assessment records in consultation with parents, in addition to offering opportunities for children to meet and become familiar with potential new adults in their lives.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are highly motivated. They become absorbed in their chosen task and show excellent levels of concentration. They listen attentively and contribute to discussions. They form meaningful relationships and demonstrate consideration towards others. Play is co-operative and children have a firm understanding of negotiating rules. They are competent in meeting their health care needs and show perseverance in their play. Children are developing a strong understanding of differing cultures.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Many children are confident speakers and engage in conversation easily with each other and adults. They enjoy sharing their views and ideas and use speech skilfully to explore real and imagined experiences. There are plentiful opportunities to handle books and to develop language for thinking. Children are adept at sounding out initial letter sounds phonetically. They are secure in writing their name and mark make with purpose. Literacy activities are strongly linked to other areas of learning.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress is very good as mathematical learning is woven into all activities. Children are competent at counting and recognising numerals up to and beyond ten. They use numbers in structured activities and general play. Staff give exceptional emphasis to calculation. Children gain a firm understanding of practical problem solving. Children have valuable opportunities to measure in differing contexts. They use positional language purposefully in their play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn about the natural world and features of their environment using exploratory skills, direct observation and investigation. They are proficient at building models and construct from a wide range of materials. Children have good access to technical equipment and are competent in its usage. Children develop a strong sense of time and place as they talk about special events in their lives. They are effectively introduced to a range of different cultures through well planned topics.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's progress in physical development is very good due to the balance of directed sessions and the quality of interaction with children during freely chosen activities. Opportunities for movement, climbing and balancing are provided indoors and out and staff ensure that the tasks are age appropriate for children of differing abilities. Children develop an awareness of space and enjoy using a wide range of resources, tools and equipment. Children learn the importance of eating healthily.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children make outstanding progress. Opportunities for children to enjoy creative movement activities are given good priority and children are familiar with a wide variety of musical songs and rhymes. Children use their imagination and express their ideas through art, stories and a well planned range of activities. Creative work effectively reinforces learning in other areas and children are given balanced opportunities for free expression and individuality.

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;
- the maintenance and continued development of the good practice across all areas of learning.

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.