



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 650110

DfES Number: 514408

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	05/06/2003
Inspector Name	Chris Gregson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Orchard Barns Kindergarten
Setting Address	Badliss Hall, Bromley Road Ardleigh Colchester Essex CO7 7LX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Anita Huckle
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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

Orchard Barns Private Kindergarten opened in 1995. It operates from four rooms in a single storey barn in Ardleigh. The nursery serves the local and surrounding area.

The nursery is registered for 46 children aged under five years; of these, not more than 12 may be under two years. There are currently 123 children from three months to under five years on roll. This includes 29 funded three year olds and 14 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Three children have special needs and the group supports a few children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Two part time and sixteen full time staff work with the children. Sixteen staff have early year qualifications. Six staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The nursery provides good quality care for children.

There is good use of staff, space and resources. Children have opportunities to play safely inside and outside and go for walks. They are confident and secure in the care of the staff who up date their training. The premises are clean, bright, attractive with informative colourful displays and photos creating an attractive environment for children. They are provided with good facilities to rest, sleep and sit comfortably to play or join in activities.

The premises are secure and children are safe as effective health and safety and child protection policies are in place. Staff have first aid training and good understanding of health and hygiene in the nursery so that children are protected

and supported. Children are given home cooked food and their dietary requirements and preferences are noted. Children's individual needs are met in all areas of the nursery. The staff support all children including children with special educational needs. Professional help is sought where needed and staff are prepared to attend training courses to enable children's needs to be met.

All children have access to a wide range of toys, resources and activities throughout the day and were observed to be engrossed in their play and learning. Children are confident, secure, independent, social and know the routine of the nursery as the staff provide warm care. Staff observe the children and use this information to inform planning in all areas of the nursery. Children's behaviour is good as staff are consistent and aware of developmentally appropriate behaviour management. Staff use positive praise to raise children's self esteem.

Staff and parents have a good working relationship. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress throughout the nursery. Effective documentation informs staff of individual children's needs and parents' wishes to enable them to provide good quality care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider agreed to revise and update the behaviour management policy, ensure staff are aware of good hygiene practice, send an action plan regarding qualifications of the deputy and ensure the child protection policy is in line with current guidelines.

The policies have been updated in line with the National Standards. All the staff have attended a health and infection control course in May 2003. The deputy has been on an equal opportunities when working with children with special needs course, June 2002, special needs co-ordinator training course, January 2003, child protection, March 2003 and health & infection control in May 2003 plus various other short courses.

What is being done well?

- Good organisation enables all the children to have the opportunity to play safely inside and outside the nursery and go for walks in the nursery grounds. (Standard 4)
- Individual children's needs are being met in all areas of the nursery and across all the ages. Staff work together as a team and children have their own keyworker. Staff observe the children and then plan activities and have a flexible approach so that the individual needs of the children are met. (Standard 3)
- Children with special needs are supported. Additional staff or individual play plans are in place to ensure they are progressing in their early years development and learning. Staff attend training whenever needed. (Standard 10)

- The partnerships with parents are good and they are kept well informed about the daily progress of their children. Policies and procedures are shared with parents and they have access to the written records of their children's development and early learning. (Standard 12)

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Staff deployment throughout all areas of the nursery provides excellent care for the individual child. (Standard 2)

What needs to be improved?

- There are no recommendations from this inspection.

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.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Children at Orchard Barns Private Kindergarten make very good progress towards achieving the early learning goals. All children benefit from a thorough and well thought out assessment system which evaluates progress and helps to plan future development. Children with special needs have a very well planned system to ensure they receive support which enables them to participate fully.

Teaching is very good and has a positive impact on children's learning. Staff make very good use of the resources and equipment available to plan a broad range of activities covering all areas of development. One aspect of knowledge and understanding of the world has room for improvement; the area of information and communications technology which is presently under represented in the planned programme. Staff clearly understand their roles and responsibilities and work very well as a team to make good use of time; children have individual attention as well as small and larger group activities. Children's behaviour and development is very high in response to high expectations and sensitive support from staff.

Leadership and management is very strong and reflects the clear vision and ethos of the setting, which is to provide high quality care and education for all children attending. A strength of the management and leadership is the ability to continually reflect and review practice and to strive for improvement.

Partnership with parents is very effective and contributes positively towards the children's progress and achievements. Parents are well informed about the nursery's activities, policies and procedures. They find staff approachable and responsive. There are both informal and planned opportunities to discuss their child's progress.

What is being done well?

- children's personal, social and emotional development is excellent. They are well behaved, confident and independent learners. They form meaningful relationships with adults and other children
- staff's clear understanding of the foundation stage and knowledge of how children learn lead to worthwhile planned activities which stimulate children's interests and encourage them to learn
- the teaching of communication, language and literacy is very focused; staff reinforce key points during and at the end of the session
- the programme for children's creative development is supported by the provision of excellent resources for role play. Children become absorbed in acting out real and imaginary events

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">the provision of resources and planned activities to promote children's knowledge and understanding of information and communications technology

What has improved since the last inspection?
<p>The setting has made very good progress in meeting the recommendation from the last inspection. The setting was asked to develop the use of the outdoor areas to extend children's learning in all areas of the curriculum. Management and staff have evaluated the use of the outside areas which now offer all children opportunities for a wide range of developmental experiences across the curriculum.</p> <p>Children now have timetabled access to the paddock throughout the year where they can explore the natural setting; observing changes and experiencing the different seasons. They play together, developing social skills and vocabulary as they explore their surroundings.</p>

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development. They are confident and eager to learn. They form good relationships with staff and respond well to instructions, listening attentively. Independence is fostered as children are allowed to select their own resources. Children have a good understanding of their own and others' needs; they are able to share and take turns. Visitors are a regular feature at the nursery bringing understanding of the wider world.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's development in this area is very good. Children use language to organise and express their thoughts; they explore real and imaginary situations during role play. Children understand that print carries meaning and reinforce this knowledge through the environment and within their topic work, and when they see adults writing for different purposes. Children develop a good understanding of letter sounds and formation and are confident at expressing themselves through emergent writing.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Mathematical development is very good. Children have many opportunities to count and recognise numbers to ten and beyond. Activities are provided to develop problem solving and early addition and subtraction skills. Mathematical language is used in everyday contexts. Knowledge of shape, space and measure is excellently promoted through exciting activities and good quality resources. Children can sequence and make patterns.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Development in this area is generally good. Children learn about the natural and man made world through exploration and investigation; they can design and make models, ask questions and record their findings. Children's awareness of information and communications technology is not sufficiently well planned for. Children's understanding of past and present events and of the wider cultural community is well developed; they celebrate festivals from around the world and take part in local events.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's physical development is very good; staff recognise the importance of movement and physical activity and plan frequent sessions to promote this every day. There is a wide range of small and large equipment in the outside play areas to enhance children's physical development skills, and awareness of space for themselves and others. Daily sessions include individual and collaborative activities. Children use a range of writing and mark making equipment to develop hand control skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's creative development is very good. They are able to explore colour and texture through printing, collage, painting, rubbings and other planned activities. Opportunities for role play and drama are excellent and well resourced. Children express their imagination and ideas in many ways; they sing songs, varying pitch and rhythm, they are able to make models and construct from kits as well as found materials. They respond to music and use instruments to create sound patterns.

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:

- introduce a planned programme of activities to promote children's knowledge and understanding of information and communications technology, for three and four year old children

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.