



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 255146

DfES Number: 519676

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 06/12/2004
Inspector Name Patricia Dawes

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Playhouse Day Nursery
Setting Address 5 St. Marys Road
Smethwick
West Midlands
B67 5DG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Yvonne Kerr

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

Playhouse Day Nursery is one of three private nurseries run by a sole owner. It opened in 1987 and operates from four rooms within a two-storey building. It is situated in Smethwick, Sandwell. A maximum of 45 children may attend the setting at any one time. The setting is open each weekday from 07.30 to 18.00 for 52 weeks of the year. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 34 children aged from 0 to under 8 years on roll. Of these 6 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The setting currently does not have any children attending with special educational needs, or who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 10 staff. Nine of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Playhouse Day Nursery provides a good standard of care for children. Staff provide a warm, friendly and welcoming environment for children and parents. Space and resources are well organised to create a stimulating, interesting and supportive environment for children. Policies and procedures are understood, implemented by staff, shared with parents and have a positive impact on the children. Records and documentation are readily available. Staff work together as a team and are committed to developing practice through evaluation and professional training.

Staff take reasonable and effective steps to ensure the physical environment is safe and secure. They implement and promote good hygiene practices and healthy eating. Children's individual needs are recognised, responded to and appropriately supported.

A wide, balanced range of activities is planned which develop children's knowledge and understanding in all areas of learning. Children are interested and involved in their activities, which provide stimulation and challenge indoors. Outdoor play space

is used daily to promote children's development, allowing them opportunities to explore and investigate their environment. Children respond well to the high expectations of staff and behave appropriately.

Staff develops a trusting, friendly relationships with parents. Parents are listened to and kept fully informed about the nursery and their children's progress. Staff works in partnership with parents to meet the children's individual needs. Information is shared with parents and their views and concerns are respected and valued.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff have a high level of awareness to all risks to children's safety. They take the necessary steps to ensure the environment is safe and secure. Effective procedures ensure children are kept safe.
- Health requirements are understood and implemented by staff, who take all reasonable steps to keep children safe and healthy by the promoting good hygiene practice and procedures.
- Staff plan a wide range of activities to develop children's knowledge and understanding in all areas of learning. Activities are imaginative, interesting and provide challenge.
- Children are well behaved, and respond well to the high expectations of the staff. Children's individual needs are recognised, responded to and supported well.
- Staff are aware of complying with local child protection policies and procedures, and demonstrate a sound understanding of issues regarding child protection.
- Staff build warm, trusting relationships with parents. The staff implement policies and procedures, which are fully understood, shared with parents, and have a positive impact on the children. Parents are kept fully informed about the nursery and their children's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the addition of comfy chairs in the 0-2 rooms
- the quality and display of books to stimulate children's interest
- the privacy of all children during toileting and nappy changing
- the limited resources and activities which promote images of disability positively
- the information in the complaints procedure concerning details of the regulatory body Ofsted

- the storage of information regarding children's medication
- the procedure for transporting children in a vehicle.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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	Ensure children's privacy is respected during toileting and nappy changing.
5	Ensure that suitable furniture is available to meet the need of children 0-2 years.
5	Improve the quality and displaying of books to stimulate children's interest.
6	Devise and implement a procedure for transporting children in a vehicle.
9	Increase the resources available to children which reflect disability positively.
12	Ensure information regarding children's medication is stored to confidentially.
14	Ensure the complaints procedure available to parents includes all relevant information regarding the regulatory body Ofsted.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Playhouse Day Nursery provides generally good quality nursery education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in, communication language and literacy, physical, creative development and knowledge and understanding of the world.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff manage the children very well, and have a positive relationship with them. They plan a variety of practical activities and have a generally good understanding of how children learn, but do not always maximise the opportunities during routines to extend children's independence whilst promoting the areas of learning. The organisation of the environment and resources create a positive learning environment in which children can develop their independence and self esteem. This is less evident in the area of mathematics where the more able children's learning is not extended.

Staff are skilful in extending children's ability in asking questions, which encourage them to think and talk about what they are doing.

Staff assesses children's learning against the stepping-stones and early learning goals and use this information well to plan activities towards the next stage of the children's development. They keep individual records, which provide a clear picture of children's progress to share with parents.

The leadership and management of the nursery are very good. Staff are well supported through training and supervision. Staff are given sufficient time to evaluate and assess. Regular staff meetings and individual appraisals are carried out. Parents receive a good level of information regarding the provision and their children's progress and development. Parents are welcomed to take part in their children's play and learning.

What is being done well?

- Children are motivated to learn as a result of the staff's positive interaction and engagement in their play.
- Children engage easily in conversations with each other and adults. They enjoy singing, listening to stories and can confidently recall past events in stories and in their personal lives.
- Children learn about the world around them by exploring their surroundings and living things. They have a good understanding about their own culture as well as other cultures, through practical and planned activities.
- Children enjoy a variety of music and they are able to distinguish sound patterns and beats in music using various mediums.

- Good general organisation helps children become self-sufficient and to make choices. The flow of activities allows children time to complete tasks and work at their own pace.
- Staff support and encourage children to try new experiences by providing a good range of activities linked to the foundation stage.
- Very good leadership and management promote the common aim to develop and improve practice and to support the individual needs of the children.
- Staff have implemented a very good system of recording children's progress, which is shared with parents, who are encouraged to take an active role in ensuring their children's learning is developing.

What needs to be improved?

- staff confidence and skills in using routines to extend children's learning in the areas of mathematical thinking and problem solving
- the opportunities for more able children to extending children's personal independence.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There has been very good improvement since the last inspection.

Staff provide opportunities for children to construct 3D and 2D models with a variety of different mediums, boxes, tubes etc. Children freely access different types of role-play, make lists for shopping, take orders for meals from the menus they devise, write and make marks in a variety of formats.

Resources, such as interest and nature tables are available for the children to enhance learning and fun.

Children are given opportunities to practice and develop their skills in using technology.

Staff use a system of workbooks, which contain compilations of children's work showing how they are progressing.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident and work well independently and together. They make decisions and are keen to learn; they express their ideas and needs with confidence to adults and peers. They take turns and share with others. Children are learning about relationships, behave appropriately and know their boundaries within the setting. However the more able children have limited opportunities to extend their personal independence at certain times during the routine of the day.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and fluent speakers, and engage in conversation with adults and each other. More able children use descriptive language to express their feelings. Children recognise letters and connect them with sound. Children are learning to use books for pleasure, and show enthusiasm with familiar stories, rhymes and songs.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are familiar with number rhymes and explore the concept of addition and subtraction in a practical way. Whilst children are able to sequence numbers up to 10 with confidence and accuracy, opportunities are missed to extend this for the more able children. Children use language to compare size, shape and progress is further developed through the use of good activities, however opportunities to develop number operations in practical situations, such as at meal times are limited.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are able to discuss freely past, present and future events relating to their families and daily lives. Children have the opportunity to explore the features of natural living things, other cultures, nationalities and customs through planned activities. IT equipment is available regularly for children in the setting, as are opportunities for children to explore other types of technology through role-play i.e. telephone, calculators etc.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are skilled at using a variety of tools and equipment. Children are developing an awareness of developing a healthy lifestyle through good hygiene practices, and appreciating that certain foods promote good health. Planned activities give children the opportunity to increase their gross motor skills i.e. indoor obstacle course. They have a good awareness of their own and each other's space organising their own play to allow space for others. They are aware of their physical well being,

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children respond to and are able to express their preferences in activities and food. Children enjoy participating in a wide range of activities. They are confident in experimenting with paints and other mediums. Children are able to express their thought and feeling through role-play. They engage in musical activities with enthusiasm, enjoying both singing and dancing. Children respond spontaneously to all creative opportunities.

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

- provide training opportunities to raise staff awareness of how to extend children's learning in mathematical thinking, and problem solving; and improve children's personal independence during practical 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.

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.