



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 141892

DfES Number: 530324

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 25/11/2004 |
| Inspector Name | Patricia Joan Latham |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Sessional Day Care |
| Setting Name | Woolstone Pre-school Playgroup |
| Setting Address | Woolstone Community Centre Mill Lane, Woolstone Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK15 0AJ |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | The Committee of Woolstone Pre-school |
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

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| Name | Woolstone Pre-school |
| Address | Woolstone Community Centre Mill Lane, Woolstone Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK15 0AJ |

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

Woolstone Pre-School Playgroup has been open under its present registration since 1997. The group operates from a community building in Woolstone, a well-established residential area close to Milton Keynes. A maximum of 20 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.30 to 12.00 and on Tuesday and Thursday from 09.30 to 13.15.

There are currently 32 children from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 19 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local and surrounding area. The group presently supports children who have English as an additional language.

The group employs six members of staff all of whom have relevant qualifications.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Woolstone Pre-school Playgroup provides high quality nursery education, which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good and staff motivate children to learn through a balanced programme of activities. The curriculum covers all areas and aspects of learning, although children do not have regular opportunities to use musical instruments. Staff have a comprehensive knowledge of the early learning goals and make regular observational recordings of children's attainment. These are used to highlight progress and identify any learning needs. Practical activities are linked into interesting themes and time and resources are used well to maximise children's learning. Staff question children effectively and take every opportunity to re-enforce learning and extend children's skills. They manage children's behaviour calmly, giving clear explanations and consistent guidelines.

The leadership and management of the nursery are very good and staff work effectively as a team. Clear roles and responsibilities are delegated and staff attend regular meetings to discuss planning the programme. Staff update their knowledge and are confident about adapting activities to suit children's changing interests. Activities, and the overall provision, are evaluated regularly to ensure learning intentions are completed.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with comprehensive information about the nursery education provision. They are encouraged to become actively involved with children's learning and are kept regularly informed about their child's progress.

What is being done well?

- Staff use time and resources well to re-enforce learning and develop skills. Daily group activities are used to encourage children's language skills and help develop confidence. Staff encourage children to practise counting and matching skills in all free play activities and there is always writing material available in the imaginary play corner to enable children to practise and develop their handwriting.
- Observational recordings are used effectively to plot children's progress. They are recorded regularly and systematically so that staff and parents can easily identify stages of learning reached and which areas could be extended. These are used to update a written termly progress report which is given to parents.
- Parents are closely involved with their child's learning. Each week a different parent is asked to help their child look after 'Zeb', a soft toy. They are asked

to write a short summary of what activities Zeb and the family have taken part in, which the child then shares with others at circle time.

- The group is well organised and staff have developed established routines but are skilful enough to adapt activities as needed. When children become restless waiting their turn to take part in a physical activity it is changed to a group action game which involves everyone, but still delivers the same learning intentions.

What needs to be improved?

- more frequent opportunities for children to use musical instruments

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made on the three key issues raised at last inspection. A broad range of books are available and children are encouraged to freely select and enjoy them. Opportunities are provided for children to take part in regular creative activities where a variety of materials are available from which they may choose to recreate their ideas. The recording of assessment observations has been developed and is linked into the early learning goals to enable staff to set individual learning objectives for children.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are enthusiastic and motivated to learn. They concentrate when colouring pictures and persevere when completing shaped puzzles. They are developing independence and are confident when talking to others. They behave very well and understand the need to work alongside others, playing well together and sharing resources. Children show a respect and concern for others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children use language well to express ideas and describe events and are broadening their vocabulary. They have a good knowledge of the sound and shape of letters and practise this daily. They also practise writing skills frequently in a range of activities and the more able are forming letters correctly and writing their own name. All children recognise their own name, handle books confidently and enjoy listening to favourite stories.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

All children are confident about counting and recognising numbers and practise regularly in daily activities. They have an understanding of number operation and can sort by shape, size and colour. They have an awareness of weight and length and use mathematical language appropriately. Children recreate pattern, for example when threading coloured beads and doing jigsaws.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children examine and observe the world around them, for example finding how many red things they can see when discussing the colour of the week. They create and design such things as rockets from recycled material and use technological equipment to support their learning. They are developing a sound understanding of time, discussing events in their own lives. Through interesting activities they are gaining an awareness of their own culture and that of others.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing co-ordination and control over their bodies. They can climb, jump and run. They use space wisely, catching and aiming balls and steering bikes around obstacles. They use small and large equipment with skill and have an understanding of how their bodies grow and keep healthy.

| CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT | |
|--|-----------|
| Judgement: | Very Good |
| Children explore and experiment with colour and differing mediums, mixing paint and mashed potato together. They are able to express their imagination through art, movement and role play and recently staged their own art exhibition. They are developing use of senses to identify and distinguish things and enjoy singing a wide range of songs, although do not frequently have the opportunity to use musical instruments. | |

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 opportunities for children to have more frequent use of musical instruments.

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.