



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 122724

DfES Number: 513738

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/03/2004
Inspector Name	Beverley Jane Bruno

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Oaks Under 5's
Setting Address	Community Centre Pollards Oak Road, Hurst Green Oxted Surrey RH8 0JE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Little Oaks Under 5's
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Little Oaks Under 5's
Address	Community Centre Pollards Oak Road Oxted Surrey RH8 0JE

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

Little Oaks Under Fives Play Group has been registered since 1992. There are 37 children on the register of whom 15 are funded three year olds and eight are funded four year olds. Of the funded children a small number have English as a second language. None of the funded children have identified special educational needs. The provision serves the local community. The children are cared for in a hall situated within Hurst Green Community Centre. The children have access to a play space adjacent to the hall and to a grassed, fenced area adjacent to the Centre's car park. Little Oaks is open daily during term time, from 9:15 to 12:15. There are eight staff who are timetabled to reflect ratios, in terms of numbers of children and qualifications. Three staff hold Diplomas in Play Group Practice, two are NNEBs and one is a qualified Teacher. The provision is a member of the PSLA and receives support from Early Years development workers.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Oaks Under Fives Playgroup provides good quality care. Staff organise the play room to provide a cheerful environment in which children can enjoy the wide range of activities, toys and resources on offer. However, at present, there is no on site telephone. The staff, more than the required number of whom have early years qualifications, support the needs of the children, ensuring they are appropriately deployed and on task. Documentation and records associated with this type of provision are in place.

The staff ensure that identified hazards to children both inside and outside of the provision are quickly minimised. Staff are knowledgeable on issues relating to children's dietary needs. They have a sound understanding of children's health requirements. All children are fully included and supported. This is also the case in the care of children with special educational needs. Staff have a good working knowledge of how to protect children from child abuse.

Children have access to a balanced mix of care routines and activities that meet their group and individual needs. Staff are confident in the use of a wide range of

appropriate strategies to promote positive behaviour in children.

Staff are fully committed to and value the promoting of partnerships with parents and carers of the children they care for. They feedback to parents at the end of sessions and at informally held meetings during the year.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The two supervisors have strong leadership skills. They effectively support the children in their learning and play. Their work processes encourage 'ownership' for staff particularly in the areas of curriculum planning, resourcing, delivery, and record keeping. Their commitment is further demonstrated in the comprehensive nature of the documentation and reference materials which fully embrace and show a continuing desire to meet the national standards and criteria.
- The staff operate as a cohesive, efficient team, as they support the children, supervisors and each other. They are committed to further training.
- Children access a good range of structured and child centred activities, which are supported by a wide selection of toys, equipment and resources. Staff manage the sessions and their interactions with the children in such a way as to maximise the opportunities for learning and building of independence and self esteem. Their planning and record keeping ensure continuity and progress in children's development.
- Children have access to a welcoming environment. Staff work hard, on a daily basis, to make the activity room inviting and stimulating with the imaginative use of partitioning and rotation of toys and equipment, all of which have to be put away at the end of the session.
- Children enjoy the range of nutritious snacks. They are offered a drink and biscuit as well as fruits and/or foods associated with a current theme.
- Children's safety on entering and leaving is effectively supervised. Staff position themselves by the door. Parents are invited into the hall. Outer doors are locked during the session.
- Parents are provided with considerable amounts of information about the provision. They are invited to participate in the running of it as committee members, parent helpers or in undertaking tasks that can be carried out at home. The committee play an active and knowledgeable role.

What needs to be improved?

- the availability of telephone contact. Staff have mobile phones but the reception is poor.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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 that access to a telephone is available at all times.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The educational provision at Little Oaks Nursery is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the Early Learning Goals in all six areas of learning.

Teaching standards are very good. Staff demonstrate a good knowledge and a clear understanding of the Early Learning Goals in their observations of children's progress, in their planning and in their teaching. They work together well to assess what children have achieved and what they need to do next. They ensure that the activities are suitably challenging for younger and older children. If children have special needs they are noted and discussed with parents. Assistance is sought from appropriate outside agencies if necessary. Children's behaviour is managed well. Very little unwelcome behaviour is evident in the group. Minor disagreements are discussed calmly with children and effectively resolved. Sessions run to a regular pattern which helps the children feel secure. With the exception of one small reading area the resources are attractive, well organised and used well to promote learning. The outdoor area is imaginatively decorated to make it a pleasant place for play.

Leadership and management is very good. All members of staff work together as a team. They evaluate their work and identify useful training courses. Providers invite the reception class teacher from the local school to meet the children in the nursery to help them move smoothly to primary school. Planning, assessment and documents pertaining to the running of the nursery are maintained in good order and they are clear and useful. Staff use advice from Early Years Workers well to develop and improve the provision.

An effective relationship has been established with parents and carers. Good quality information is made available to them about the work of the nursery. Parents and staff share their knowledge of the children and they work together well to help the children make progress.

What is being done well?

- Children are gaining self-confidence and they are well behaved.
- Children listen well to stories and they eagerly enter into discussions in small and large groups.
- Children are making good progress in recognising numbers and counting. Staff are adept at promoting children's learning in practical tasks across the curriculum.
- Children are gaining a broad knowledge and understanding of the world. They use technology particularly well to support their learning.
- Children thoroughly enjoy all aspects of the programme for their physical

development.

- Children's creative work is respected and displayed well as a useful tool for further learning.

What needs to be improved?

- the reading area in the Acorns room
- the accessibility of plans displayed for parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

One key issue for improvement was identified at the last inspection. Staff agreed to create a craft area within the main hall where children would have freedom to express their own thoughts, ideas and feelings through art and craft activities. Staff have arranged art and craft resources so that children have easy access to them. Children are able to make choices and decision about how they use resources in their art work.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are keen to take part in their activities. They speak confidently to each other and to staff. Children listen very well to instructions and at story time. They get along well together and understand they must take turns and share. They are gaining independence through routines such as self-registration, dressing and undressing and helping to put away their toys and resources. They are learning that there are many cultures and customs in the wider world.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children listen particularly well in their group work in the side room. They become fully involved in their activities. Children's vocabulary is extended well. Children are eager to relate their news and express their own ideas over craft work and play. They are beginning to recognise letters and know the sounds that they make. Children take part in valuable mark making activities. They enjoy looking at books and know that both pictures and print have meaning.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children take part in worthwhile activities in a number rich environment. They are involved in many activities that require them to sort, estimate and count real things. Planning for mathematical activities shows that children are often involved in suitable problem solving tasks. The outdoor area is used well to promote number recognition. Children are learning to name simple shapes such as triangles and circles. They are gaining an understanding of size and measure and related vocabulary.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are involved in a good range of topic work. Activities about animals and insects enable them to understand the lives and needs of living things. They learn about the passage of time through studying their own development and from planting and caring for seeds. Children use information technology very well to support their learning. They make good use of the local area to increase their knowledge of the wider world in activities such as shopping and posting cards.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are involved in a well planned programme of activities selected to help them to make good progress in all aspects of physical development. They learn about the space around them and how to avoid obstacles. Bodywork activities include climbing, balancing, jumping and crawling games to promote their larger muscle skills. They learn about the importance of good hygiene and healthy eating. They use a range of smaller equipment to develop their throwing and catching skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children are encouraged to explore the properties of the materials given to them in creative work. Staff respect children's work and it is neatly labelled and displayed. Displays enhance the learning environment and are used well as a tool for further learning. The children enjoy music and movement activities. They take part in imaginative role play and drama activities. Over time children have access to resources and activities that appeal to all of the senses.	
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 key issues for improvement have been identified at this inspection. Points for consideration are
- make the reading area in the Acorns room more attractive
- display plans in the foyer to give parents easier access to them.

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.