



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 139209

DfES Number: 582383

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	15/03/2004
Inspector Name	Jeanette Susan Brooks

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Woodlands Nursery
Setting Address	Woodford Hall Poplar Close Ruislip HA4 7BU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Partnership of Deborah Gumm & Carol Harno
Address	Woodlands Nursery Woodford Hall Poplars Close Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7BU

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

Woodlands Nursery opened in 1992.

The nursery operates from two rooms within a Scout Hall. It is in walking distance of local amenities and transport links, in a residential area. The nursery provides a service for the local community.

There are currently 49 children on roll. This includes 18 funded 3 year olds and 3 funded 4 years olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The nursery supports children who have English as a second language and Special Educational Needs.

The nursery opens five days a week excluding weekends and bank holidays, from 08:00 to 18:00.

Eight full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have an early years qualification, including the two owner/managers. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Woodlands Nursery provides satisfactory care for the children.

The nursery offer parents a flexible service. Staff make creative use of space and know their roles and responsibilities well. However, the arrangements for the children who arrive for breakfast is not always suitable. Children are provided with a wide range of toys and activities that give the children good play opportunities. There are a range of policies, procedures and recording systems. Some of these require re-organising to ensure the safe and efficient management of the provision.

Staff promote safety throughout the nursery. They have good health and hygiene procedures, but need to ensure these are followed in all areas of the nursery. The children are provided with variety in their meals, with the opportunity for them to request more. When a child became unwell, staff took appropriate steps that were in

the best interests of the child.

The nursery provides a balanced and interesting range of activities that are linked to the theme within the planning. However, all staff should encourage the children to participate fully in these activities. The nursery use a rotating system for children to access four areas of play, in small groups. This encourages the children to participate in all aspects of play, but allows for flexibility. The children's behaviour is well managed by staff, but they need to ensure an overview at all times.

Parents are provided with detailed information about the nursery. They are kept well informed of their child's progress and have access to written records on this. Staff give time to make parents feel welcome.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/A

What is being done well?

- The activities, interest tables and themes are well planned. They are linked to all parts of the nursery and staff give great attention to the preparation of the different areas. Displays are used in the entrance, main room and smaller activity room, to create a child friendly environment within the premises.
- Children are offered a small group activity in a separate room. This is linked to the theme and discussion, visual aids are used. Children are interested and participate with enthusiasm.
- When child becomes unwell, a staff member takes responsibility to check child's temperature, take the child to a quiet area and to contact the parent. The child is made comfortable and monitored till the parent arrives.
- Children regularly participate throughout the day in group and action singing, in and outside the building. Staff ensure that each child has the opportunity to play a role in this activity.

What needs to be improved?

- the systems for obtaining written consent from parents before administering medication and obtaining the parent's signature following the administering of the medication
- the general cleanliness of the premises
- the arrangements for children who attend for breakfast to ensure the environment is comfortable and welcoming
- staffs knowledge and understanding about teaching methods to help children progress in all areas.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
7	Obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children.	15/03/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Organise the breakfast time to ensure the children have a comfortable and welcoming environment.
3	Ensure all staff encourage the children to participate fully in the activities.
4	Ensure all areas of the nursery are maintained to a good standard of cleanliness.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Woodlands Day Nursery provides a planned curriculum of interesting activities, the children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Children are able to make their needs known and are able to share and take turns. Their behaviour is good. Children are able to listen and speak both in groups and in one to one situations with their peers and known adults.

Staff have formed positive relationships with children, and their interaction is good. Staff plan interesting activities for the children and their use of the resources is good. Whilst the children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals and staff plan and present interesting activities for them, their abilities to provide challenge for the children and to question them is limited, some staff need to improve their knowledge of the stepping stones and the way children learn.

New processes to evaluate the planning are in place, this needs to be consolidated.

Managers set positive role models to their staff, they have good working relationships with parents and children. Whilst the manager has a commitment to the care of the children the setting would benefit from an improved record keeping system.

The setting promotes positive partnership with parents, information about the setting is readily available in the entrance to the nursery, information about the children's developmental progress is regularly shared verbally. The nursery provides a delivery and collection service for children who attend the local primary schools.

Comments received from parents interviewed about the setting were positive

What is being done well?

- The nursery plans an interesting range of activities to the children.
- The nursery has a good range of resources to support the activities offered.
- Children's behaviour is good.
- The children are supported in the areas of mathematics and communication, language and literature by good written examples of numerals and letters.
- The nursery has good working relationships with parents.

What needs to be improved?

- ensure staff gain knowledge of the stepping stones and early learning goals

- ensure staff provide children with opportunities to extend and experiment within the good range of activities offered
- ensure record keeping systems are improved.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the nursery was asked to provide a group time for the older children so that they have opportunities to listen to stimulating stories and rhymes to extend their learning. This is happening, group time for the older children is interesting and covers a wide range of activities including stories, rhymes and song time which incorporates a wide range of subjects.

The nursery was also asked to provide regular opportunities for children to practice climbing and balancing, evidence from photographs show that this is now being offered to the children.

The setting was asked to extend the opportunities to children to listen and respond to a range of music, children have access to a listening corner, which is widely used by them where they can enjoy listening to music, the children also enjoy singing a wide range of songs and rhymes.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are happy interested in the activities offered and able to make their needs known They are able to sit and listen and concentrate when needed and can carry out simple instructions. Children are well supported by staff. Children are able to take turns and are encouraged to negotiate and share by staff members. Through planned activities and projects, children are learning about feelings and have opportunities to learn about their own cultures and beliefs.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children speak clearly in one to one situations and in groups they are aware of the listener. They enjoy stories, rhymes and songs, there is good participation during story time, they understand that print carries meaning and has several uses, they have access to a range of books. Children link sounds to letters and words, some children are able to write their own names. Staff need to make better use of the good resources provided to enable children to gain the most from the activities

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are supported by a range of good visual examples of numerals, size and shapes in this area. Children have good opportunities to count throughout the day in various activities and through rhymes. Children are able to recognise numerals 1 to 9 and are able to solve simple problems in every day activities such as sand and play dough, they also weigh and measure when cooking and during role play. Staff need to question children in order to stimulate and further their thinking.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are given good opportunities to explore man made and natural materials, they enjoy identifying living things and observing and comparing a variety of objects. Children observe change and discuss similarities and differences. The planned activities are well presented to the children, staff need to ensure that they provide opportunities for them to use them to their full extent. Through planned activities and projects children are introduced to different cultures and beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children handle small and large equipment with ease and move confidently around the setting. Through music and movement and outdoor circle activities children are learning spatial awareness. Children are developing their climbing and balancing skills by using a range of different equipment. Through projects and planned activities children are learning the importance of staying healthy and about changes that take place in the body during exercise.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children have opportunities to explore colour, experience texture, form and space in two and three dimension through painting and art activities. Children enjoy singing songs from memory and listening to music. Children have good opportunities to use their imagination in art as well as during and imaginative play, props are well presented, staff support children well in this area.	
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

- ensure all staff gain knowledge of the stepping stones and early learning goals.
- ensure staff provide children with opportunities to extend and experiment within the good range of activities offered.
- ensure record keeping systems are improved.

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.