



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 253474

DfES Number: 516933

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/11/2002
Inspector Name	Anne Barnsley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Ancaster Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address	The Parish Hall Ancaster Grantham Lincolnshire NG32 3PW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Ancaster Pre-School Playgroup Committee
Address	The Parish Hall Ancaster Grantham Lincolnshire NG32 3PW

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

Ancaster Pre-school Playgroup is a sessional group meeting for four mornings each week in the parish hall. The majority of the children live in the village, however it does also serve some of the surrounding villages. Most of the children attending move on to the local school where there are very close links. The group is committee run and registered to provide care for 26 children between the ages of 2.5 and 5 years. Of these children eight, three year olds and five, four year olds are receiving nursery education funding.

There is currently no outside play area, however children are regularly taken on nature walks and to the local school and playing fields. It has been agreed that the pre-school can build an outdoor soft play area and fund raising events have been planned to achieve this.

There is a well planned curriculum that provides the children with a wide variety of experiences which will equip them for entry into school

There are currently no children with special educational needs or children who speak English as an additional language represented in the group. The staff have child care qualifications or are currently undertaking training. One member of the group is a qualified primary school teacher. The group has regular involvement with the EYDCP and attends Early Years forums and seminars.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The children are making good progress towards the Early Learning Goals in all six areas of learning. The pre-school offers good nursery education where children enjoy a varied and stimulating programme.

Staff plan effectively and have a good understanding of the early learning goals and stepping stones. The staff have identified a need to increase resources for technology and bring objects from home. Staff are also fund raising for further resources and have applied for a grant to develop an outside soft play area to enhance the opportunities for physical activities. They have good assessments records in place that enable them to identify individual need and to provide children with challenges that progress their learning.

Staff have a good understanding of how children learn and planning allows for flexibility that enables children to have input to their learning. Staff interaction is positive and encourages children to ask questions and to have sufficient time to experiment and to solve problems.

The staff work well as a team and provide an environment that is welcoming and productive. Staff skills are utilised well to ensure that children gain the maximum potential from the activities on offer. Staff manage a key worker group and record all individual achievements as they occur. There is a staff training programme in place and regular staff meetings are held for information exchange, planning and decision making.

The setting works closely with parents and has good procedures in place for introducing new families, sharing information and for including parents in extending or planning their children's learning programme

What is being done well?

- Good understanding of the Early Learning Goals and Stepping Stones.
- Excellent planning in all six areas of learning.
- Excellent curriculum information for parents.
- Excellent programme in place for children with special educational needs.
- Effective assessment records and system in use for providing individual challenge.
- Effective key worker system.
- Excellent interaction and opportunities for children to input and use their own ideas.

What needs to be improved?

- Points to consider.
- Enhancing opportunities for developing social skills and interaction during break.
- Continue to develop opportunities for children to use technology and objects with working parts.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Excellent progress has been made with planning and providing children with a broad and stimulating learning programme in all six areas of learning.

Assessment records have been devised that effectively identify individual progress and enable staff to provide appropriate challenges.

Greater opportunities for knowledge and understanding of the world have been provided through obtaining additional resources.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have made good progress and are confident and independent. Staff provide activities that are interesting and enable children to learn new skills. Staff interaction is positive and children are given plenty of opportunities to interact with peers or in group activities. Children displayed good behaviour and recognised what is wrong and right. Staff gave clear and understandable explanations. Children are able to make independent decisions and work alone.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children communicate well and are confident, fluent talkers. There are good opportunities for children to use books and writing materials and to experiment with these through role play. Staff interaction is positive and encourages children to ask questions. Staff progress children's learning through valuing what children have to say and by having meaningful conversations that extend their language.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making good progress with mathematical development through activities that are well planned and well used. Staff make good use of repartition and by including mathematical language and concepts in other activities, role play and general conversation.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Staff provide good opportunities for children to learn about the world, technology, self and nature. Additional resources and a well planned curriculum ensure that the children participate in interesting activities that encourage questions, exploration, problem solving and sharing personal experiences.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Good resources and a well planned curriculum provide the children with a variety of different means to develop physically and to have an awareness of themselves, of others and of space. An planned outdoor soft play area will enhance these opportunities further.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Creative activities enable children to progress well with their understanding of different mediums and self expression. Children have regular exposure to music, dance, movement and crafts. Children learn well through a good balance of adult focused activities and independent choice. Children have positive experiences for expressing their feelings.	
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:

- continue to provide greater opportunities for children to learn about knowledge and understanding of the world.

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.