



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 311296

DfES Number: 515187

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 20/09/2004
Inspector Name Ann Law

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Mulberry Bush Playgroup
Setting Address Fernside Avenue
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD5 8PQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Monica Wells

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

Mulberry Bush Pre-school and lunch club opened in 1989 and is a private organisation. The group are registered for 26 children from two to five years and offer sessional care. They operate from the gatehouse at Almondbury High School, near Huddersfield and serve the needs of the local community. The group has access to a playroom, toilet and kitchen facilities and a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

They are currently caring for 40 children of which two 3-year olds and 20 4-year olds are in receipt of nursery education funding. The setting currently supports children with special needs, but does not support any who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup is open from 09:15 to 12:15, Mondays to Fridays and offers a luncheon club until 13:15. Nine part-time staff work with the children, the majority of whom hold or are working towards early years qualifications to NVQ level 2/3. The setting receives support from the local authority and holds an Investors in Children Quality Assurance award.

How good is the Day Care?

Mulberry Bush Playgroup provides good quality care for children. The setting is clean, well maintained and attractively decorated with displays of children's artwork. Space is used well with clearly defined areas created for play. However, the toilet facilities may not ensure children's privacy and dignity. Children independently access a very good range of toys and resources, which fully reflect the diversity of our society. There are a comprehensive range of clear policies and procedures which support the high standards of care. All the required documentation is in place. The pre-existing injury document requires to be more confidential.

The majority of the staff hold, or are working towards, recognised childcare qualifications. Staff have a very good awareness of risks to children's health and safety and all measures to protect them are in place. All staff hold current first aid

certificates. Parents are made aware of the group's duty to protect children. Local child protection guidance is held, but not current government guidance. Staff give high priority to meeting children's individual needs and liaise with parents to ensure these are met.

Interesting themes and focused activities, in a well planned routine, ensure that children's developmental needs are met. Effective deployment of staff allows children's independence and decision making skills to be promoted. Warm and trusting relationships are held between staff and children and positive methods are used to manage children's behaviour well.

The setting has a very good relationship with parents and a variety of methods are used to provide them with detailed information about the provision and their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The setting is well organised and committed to improvement. They have achieved an Investors in Children Quality Assurance Award and regularly monitor staff effectiveness to ensure a positive impact on the children.
- There is a very good range of activities and learning experiences provided for children. Full use is made of the outdoor provision to cover all areas of learning and offer variety and choice to children.
- Healthy drinks and snacks are attractively offered to children and snack time is promoted as a social occasion. Vigilant procedures are in place to ensure children with special dietary needs are protected.
- Staff are skilled in meeting children's differing needs regarding diet, ability and religion. Equality of opportunity is offered throughout the provision and the group actively seek information on cultural differences. They regularly review their practices to ensure they respect all beliefs.
- Effective strategies are used to promote good behaviour. Staff are skilled in managing children's behaviour in a positive manner and as a result children are happy, and settled.

What needs to be improved?

- physical environment to ensure children's privacy and dignity when using the toilet facilities
- confidentiality of documentation
- child protection with regard to the guidance held.

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	Improve the toilet facilities to ensure the dignity and privacy of children are respected.
13	Review the child protection statement to ensure it is consistent with current local and government procedures.
14	Improve the system for recording existing injuries to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Mulberry Bush Playgroup Nursery provision is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a good knowledge of the Foundation Stage and are committed and enthusiastic in their approach to providing interesting and challenging activities for the children. All areas of learning are covered in a well organised routine. However, there is no system in place to ensure all stepping stones are covered sufficiently over time and offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Detailed observations record children's achievements and show children's next steps in learning, but these are not used to inform the future planning for children's development.

Leadership and management is very good. The setting is committed to offering a high standard of service for parents and children and to continuous improvement through Quality Assurance. Comprehensive policies and procedures which clearly relate to the Foundation Stage, contribute to the effective running of the setting. Regular monitoring evaluates the setting and the staff's strengths and weaknesses and ensures a positive impact on the children.

Partnership with parents is very good. They are provided with good quality information regarding the Foundation Stage and children's records of achievements clearly show their progress towards the early learning goals. Parents are encouraged to contribute information regarding their child's progress at home.

What is being done well?

- The setting is very language rich and children's early reading and writing skills are developing very well. There are a wide range of mark making opportunities throughout the setting which children use to ascribe meanings to marks in play.
- The use of local resource libraries ensures there are high quality resources and books available to the children and they are used to enhance the planned topic.
- Staff work together very well as a team and are actively involved in children's play and learning. They share in children's enthusiasm and excitement, supporting and facilitating their development through effective questioning skills. This results in happy, confident children who are motivated to learn.
- There is an attractive outdoor woodland play area, which is freely accessible to children throughout the session, due to effective deployment of staff. The planning ensures that the outdoors is always included, extending children's opportunities to learn in a variety of ways and explore the natural world.

What needs to be improved?

- the systems used to plan for children's progress towards the early learning goals to ensure that all stepping stones will be covered sufficiently over time
- the use of the children's next steps for learning information to effectively inform the future planning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Generally good progress has been made since the last inspection. The staff have introduced a number of effective measures to improve children's opportunities to recognise and write their name. A well resourced mark making area, promoting self-selection, is available for children and an improved registration system have both clearly contributed to their progress. An interesting 'Happy Body' topic is introducing children to the importance of keeping healthy and learning about their bodies in a fun and age appropriate way.

Staff have attended training in the Foundation Stage and increased their knowledge to be effective in assessing children's progress through the stepping stones. However, this information is not used to inform future planning and this remains in part a point for consideration from this inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, settled and confident in the environment and speak with ease at group time. Their behaviour is good and they display caring attitudes when someone is upset. Children demonstrate high levels of self-help skills, such as hand washing and putting aprons on. They become involved and motivated in story time with puppets, to illustrate the story and can maintain attention and sit quietly when appropriate.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children write for a purpose and ascribe meanings to marks in play, taking messages in the role play café. They enjoy books and are aware that print carries meaning, handling them appropriately. Children show enthusiasm at song time joining in with repeated refrains. They use good language in role play, imitating adults and reflecting their life experiences, for example in the shoe shop. Children manipulate objects with increasing control and form recognisable letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children use shape and recreate patterns in play using different objects in the sand. They use appropriate language to compare the shape, size and position in a sock matching activity. Children are very confident in attempting number problems and are developing an awareness of calculation through snack time. They imaginatively use number in familiar contexts such as the price of tickets for the movies.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children eagerly explore and investigate using their senses and observe a snail they found in the garden. They confidently and independently use resources for ICT, completing simple programmes with good control of the mouse. Children have a good sense of time and place and recall past and present events, for example recent holidays and a rainbow seen on the way to the group. They are developing awareness of different cultures and beliefs through visitors to the setting and topics.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children demonstrate good balance and co-ordination skills, using the resources in the outdoor play area. They negotiate space effectively and with confidence when riding bikes and finding a space to sit at story time. Children handle tools with skill and control, for example when threading material onto needles and are aware that they have to be used safely. They are becoming aware of a range of healthy practices such as hand washing and eating fruit.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children explore a good range of media and texture and experiment widely in sand and corn flour. Children have a good use of imagination, especially in role play and music making up their own wildlife song and dancing sensitively like a ballet dancer. Children respond appropriately to their senses showing curiosity at a snail and facial expressions to convey dislike at celery.

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 improve the following:
- improve the systems used to plan for children's progress towards the early learning goals to ensure that all stepping stones will be covered sufficiently over time
- utilise the children's next steps for learning information to effectively inform the future planning.

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.