

Harry Roberts Nursery School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100888
Local Authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	276412
Inspection dates	24–25 May 2006
Reporting inspector	Lyn Riley

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Nursery
School category	Maintained
Age range of pupils	3–5
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr John Singleton Ms Jacqueline Priestley
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Harford Street Stepney London E1 4PZ
Telephone number	020 7790 6711
Fax number	020 7790 6711

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

Harry Roberts is a large nursery school serving an area of significant social and economic deprivation in East London. The majority of children are from Asian Bangladeshi backgrounds but children from a wide range of other cultures and backgrounds, including Somali and White British, also attend the school. Many of the children are at an early stage of learning English. A very high number receive free school meals. The school will change its name and status to the Ocean Children's Centre in September 2006. In preparation for this, the school has endured two years of extensive building work and, despite three attempts to appoint, the school currently has no deputy headteacher.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

- Strengthen the existing senior management team.
- Improve the range and quality of resources provided in the outdoor area.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching is consistently good. All activities are planned thoroughly, organised well, and adults know exactly what they want the children to learn. By using a variety of approaches, adults ensure that activities are exciting and fun. A particular strength is the way in which adults work together to provide very good role models for children's language development. This effectively builds their confidence to speak and listen in English and in their home language.

Assessment procedures are good. Each child is linked to an adult key-worker, who keeps comprehensive written records of the child's progress, based on first hand observations. These records form a very thorough Early Learning Record which is used to identify what the children need to learn next. Each child also has a 'Special Book', a comprehensive photographic record of individual achievement.

The school places a strong emphasis on self-evaluation, and at the end of each day all adults thoroughly review the day's activities. This information is taken into account when planning the following day's activities and this ensures that children's learning needs are well met.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is good. The school's strong focus on personal, social and emotional development helps all children to grow in confidence, take responsibility for their own behaviour and develop very positive relationships.

All activities are carefully planned and children have good opportunities to learn and explore across all of the areas of learning. Opportunities to support children's knowledge and understanding of the world have been strengthened recently through the acquisition of five up-to-date computers which have engaging programmes designed to support young children's learning.

Although the school provides a sound range of opportunities outdoors, these are currently limited and the resources do not provide children with the consistently good level of learning experience that they enjoy indoors. Opportunities for physical development are restricted by,

for example, the lack of space restricting the use of climbing and balancing equipment at the same time as the wheeled toys.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The quality of care, guidance and support is outstanding. Parents are full of praise for the school and children feel very well looked after. The school is very welcoming and has an outstanding family atmosphere.

Thorough health and safety and risk-assessment procedures are carried out, supported by an external consultant. Child protection policies and procedures are well established and staff have received the appropriate training. All adults who work in the school have had the relevant police checks.

Children are fully involved in assessment and record keeping activities and enjoy talking about their 'Special Books'. The school makes excellent use of the digital camera in order to keep a photographic record, along with written notes, of key milestones in each child's development. Parents are regularly invited into school to discuss their own child's progress.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Children

I had a lovely time when I visited your school. I enjoyed watching you working and talking to your teachers and to your Mums and Dads. They told me that they think Harry Roberts Nursery is a good school where you are very well cared for and where you learn to do lots of good things every day. I agree with them.

I saw that your headteacher and teachers work hard to make sure you always have interesting things to do and that you always feel safe and happy. You make lots of friends and the way you all work and play happily together is outstanding (which means very, very, good!). Your teachers help you to learn how to do all sorts of things, like, drawing, writing, counting and making things and they are very good at helping you to learn new words.

Your mums and dads are very pleased to see how much you learn and how happy you are at school. Some mums and dads feel very sad when you have to leave the nursery. I have asked the school to do two things to become even better: 1. Find a good deputy headteacher who will help the headteacher to do all her work. 2. Make your outdoor area as good and exciting as your classrooms. I had a lovely time meeting all of you and I hope you will always be as happy as you are at Harry Roberts.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Riley

Lead Inspector