



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 591005

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 01/04/2003
Inspector Name Paula Hunt

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type
Setting Name ALCESTER NURSERY STUDIO
Setting Address ANNA SUSAN GRIEG MEMORIAL HALL
KINWARTON ROAD
ALCESTER
WARICKS
B49 6AD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Alcester Nursery School 1032182

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Alcester Nursery School
Address 24 Horton Close
Alcester
Warwickshire
B49 6LB

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

Alcester Nursery has been established since September 2001 and is situated in a studio terrapin within the grounds of the Greig Memorial Hall in the market town of Alcester. The studio terrapin has one large room that is divided into smaller areas with screens. There is a safely enclosed outdoor area with both hard and grass surfaces and permanent climbing apparatus.

The nursery provides care and education for children from two to eight years old. It currently operates from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday term time only.

A total of 51 children attend the nursery. There are 20 three-year-olds, of whom 12 are in receipt of government funding, and all 16 four-year-olds receive nursery grant. The nursery caters for three children who have special educational needs, but there are currently no funded children for whom English is not their first language. Funded children attend a variable number of sessions a week. Children attending represent a wide range of family backgrounds; about half of the children attend while their parents are at work.

The nursery offers a before and after school service delivering and collecting children from Alcester infants, Our Lady's and St.Faiths schools.

All staff employed have a childcare qualification and/or related early years experience. The nursery receives support from the Warwickshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership through regular visits from an advisory teacher. The nursery enjoys close links with the local schools.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The children are making very good progress through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals in all six areas of the curriculum, particularly the key areas of personal, social and emotional development, communication, language and literacy and mathematics. The setting is fully committed to the improvement of care and education for all children and are able to identify their strengths and weaknesses.

There are good systems in place to support children with special educational needs. They are able to follow plans at their own level to ensure that appropriate progress is made.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have an excellent knowledge of the early learning goals which enable them to plan a wide range of stimulating activities which build effectively on what children already know and understand. This makes a significant contribution to the children's achievement and behaviour. Children are fully engaged and interested in all aspects of their play. Great emphasis is placed on working in partnership with parents/carers, which supports and has a positive effect on the children's learning.

What is being done well?

- Staff create a secure and happy environment and there are very good relationships at all levels.
- High priority is given to the development of children's spoken language and communication skills.
- Practical routines and room organisation effectively promote the development of mathematical skills.
- Staff encourage respect for others and have high expectations for behaviour.
- Children express their ideas, needs and feelings with confidence and have high self-esteem.
- There is good emphasis on imaginative and creative expression.
- Children's natural curiosity and investigation skills are stimulated through challenging and exciting sensory experiences.
- Good effective links with parents and carers ensure learning builds on the children's experiences from home.

What needs to be improved?

- further visual numbers in displays and the outdoor environment which can be clearly seen to assist in number recognition.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

All children are making very good progress in their personal social and emotional development. The children are motivated well by stimulating activities, for example as they investigate mini beasts under a stone using magnifying glasses. They concentrate as they play games and sit quietly for a story. They happily share and take turns during group games. Their behaviour is very good. The children confidently make choices, work well independently and easily access resources they need.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's learning in communication, language and literacy is excellent. There is high emphasis on speaking and listening skills. Children differentiate between real and imagined experiences. Children respond with enthusiasm to stories and listen attentively to instructions. Displays and resources are clearly labelled to assist word recognition and children use name cards appropriately. They explore writing freely during a variety of role play situations and using a well equipped writing area.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in mathematics is very good. Good emphasis is placed on using numbers in practical situations. Older children count to ten and beyond with confidence and younger children are beginning to count with adult support. They discuss quantity as they measure out ingredients for baking and consider the size shape and position of plastic equipment as they build their models. They demonstrate an awareness of pattern using appropriate resources such as plastic bears and beads.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. There are exciting activities to encourage them to investigate properties of natural and man made materials. They explore similarities and differences, for example in sandwich ingredients. Children are developing a sense of time as they talk about past events in their lives. There are good opportunities to find out about their own and other cultures, during domestic play and when responding to different festivals.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in physical development is good. Staff make effective use of space including outdoor areas to encourage children to move with confidence, imagination and safety. The children are fully challenged by the climbing and balancing apparatus. Staff place good emphasis on the importance of a healthy diet and exercise. Children are able to handle tools, such as kitchen utensils and scissors with increasing control. Activities such as manipulating dough develop small finger movements.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Good emphasis is placed on using senses, smelling and tasting different fruits and handling textures in a feely bag. Role play is popular and staff skilfully develop children's ideas. The children sing and play musical instruments enthusiastically. They are encouraged to explore a wide variety of resources in order to express their ideas through art and design. The resulting work reflects their individuality and enhances the nursery walls.

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 further numbers in visual displays which can be clearly seen to assist in number recognition.

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.