



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 159395**

**DfES Number: 518945**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      05/03/2004  
Inspector Name      Liz Margaret Caluori

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name      Little Oaks Preschool  
Setting Address      Valley Community Hall  
                         Sunningvale Avenue  
                         Biggin Hill  
                         Kent  
                         TN16 3TN

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Mrs Claire Miranda Nuttall

## 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

Little Oaks Pre-school is a privately owned group which operates from a community hall in a small rural suburb in the borough of Bromley. The building consists of two halls, toilet and cloakroom facilities and an enclosed outdoor play areas. The present owners have been registered to run the group since 2001. The pre-school serves the local community.

There are currently 37 children from 2.5 to 5 years on roll. This includes 6 funded three-year-olds and 18 funded four year olds. Children generally attend all sessions. Whilst there are currently no children on attending who need additional support, the group is able to accommodate children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term time and sessions are from 9.00am until 12 noon.

Eight staff work with the children, of whom three have appropriate recognised early years qualifications and a fourth has almost completed NVQ II. The setting receives support from the local Early Years Childcare Development Partnership (EYDCP).

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Little Oaks Pre-School offers very good quality nursery education. Children enjoy learning through an interesting range of activities and are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good and all staff have a sound knowledge of the foundation stage. They use many effective strategies to engage children's interest including encouraging them to bring in items from home which link with topic work. Staff are competent at building on children's curiosity and are aware of each child's individual needs.

Children are making particularly good progress in communication, language and literacy and knowledge and understanding of the world. They are also making very good progress in mathematics. They are developing an understanding of addition and subtraction and confidently use mathematical language in freely chosen activities. Children speak enthusiastically on a wide range of subjects. Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. They are confident in their interaction and work well in groups, enjoying many opportunities to make choices and decisions. Children are caring and behave well in response to the high expectations and sensitive support of staff.

Children regularly take part in a wide range of activities aimed at enhancing their physical development although, on occasion, adult supervision limits the challenge for some children. Opportunities for creative development are also very good. Children enjoy role-play, making music and arts and crafts using a wide variety of materials.

The leadership and management of the setting is very good and there is a commitment to ongoing staff development. The individual skills of staff are recognised and effectively used to benefit the children.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. They are provided with a good range of written information about the setting and are regularly informed of their child's progress.

### What is being done well?

- Children speak confidently and fluently on a wide range of subjects as a result of the staff's consistent interest. They are provided with many opportunities to engage in conversation.
- Children are very well behaved, friendly and confident as a result of positive, warm support from staff.
- Children enjoy and learn from a range of interesting activities introducing

mathematical strategies and number recognition.

- Staff plan an imaginative range of activities aimed at increasing children's knowledge and understanding of the world, including outings and interest tables.
- Staff have a clear understanding of the foundation stage and are skilful in planning, implementing and extending activities. They supervise in a flexible manner, allowing children to make choices and they respond promptly when needed to provide additional resources as support.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- The opportunities for more able to children take part in physical activities, such as climbing and balancing, which provide them with an appropriate level of challenge.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Areas for improvement in the previous report were set against the desirable learning outcomes and are therefore no longer applicable. It was also suggested that the group place greater emphasis on personal and social development. The ownership of the group has changed since the last inspection and the children are currently making very good progress in their personal, social and emotional development.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing confidence to interact in both large and small groups. They are able to clearly express opinions and enjoy many opportunities to make choices and develop their independence. They are developing good concentration and behaviour with the effective and consistent support of staff.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing confidence in their speech and often instigate and take part in many interesting and complex conversations. They often freely choose to look at books, both stories and reference books, and are developing a good understanding of the use of text to carry meaning. Many children are able to form recognisable letters and write their own names and all are making good progress toward the early learning goal.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children often use mathematical language and apply mathematical strategies in their freely chosen activities. Most are able to count to ten and beyond and many are able to recognise written numerals up to nine. Children are also able to compare numbers, identify which is greater, and are developing a good understanding of shape.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy a wide range of activities aimed at increasing their knowledge and understanding of their own environment and enthusiastically take part in large group discussions that help to re-enforce their learning. Children clearly enjoy regularly bringing in items from home which either link with topic work or which they want to share with the group.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy physical play both indoors and outdoors and are able to climb, balance and run confidently. However, adult supervision of the indoor climbing equipment sometimes results in lack of sufficient challenge being provided from more able children. Children are able to use a range of tools and many are able to thread and fasten their coats with confidence.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are very imaginative in their role-play and make good use of the resources provided to extend their play. They use of wide range of materials to produce interesting and individual artwork.

**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:*

- Review and improve the opportunities for older, or more able, children to experience a greater level of challenge in their physical activities.

*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.*