



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY231881

DfES Number: 584111

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/01/2005
Inspector Name Anne Barnsley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Abbey 345 Playgroup
Setting Address St Guthlacs School
Postland Road, Crowland
Peterborough
PE6 0EE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Abbey 345 Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Abbey 345 Playgroup
Address .
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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

Abbey 345 Playgroup is a committee organised provision registered since 1992. The playgroup operates from a mobile unit set in the grounds of a school in the rural village of Crowland. The premises consist of two play areas, a kitchen area, entrance lobby and toilet facilities for children and staff. There is a fully enclosed outside play area attached to the premises.

The playgroup is registered for thirty children and is open each weekday between 09:15 and 14:30 offering a range of sessions for children between two and five years. Children attending the group are drawn from the surrounding rural area.

There are currently forty nine children on roll. Of these children twenty five three year-olds and six four year-olds are in receipt of nursery education funding. The group have close links with the local community and are members of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. Seven staff work with the children. Three members of staff have completed NVQ level 3 in childcare and one member of staff is undertaking training.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Abbey 345 Playgroup offers very good quality nursery education where the children enjoy learning through a wide range of stimulating activities. Effective teaching supports children in their learning and enables them to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The children benefit from the staff's sound understanding of the early learning goals. The planning ensures that the children are provided with interesting and practical activities in all areas of learning however, this is not clearly recorded. Clear assessment records are maintained detailing children's individual progress. The staff have formed very good relationships with the children. They know each child well and demonstrate a good understanding of individual needs. Staff have high expectations for children's behaviour and manage this effectively. Children are praised and all efforts are recognised as achievements.

Leadership and management is very good. The success of the setting is due to the commitment and strong team work of committee, staff and manager. There are good systems in place for monitoring the effectiveness of the provision, with all staff sharing the responsibility for this. The pre-school is very committed to developing and improving standards of care and education within the setting and support this with their proactive approach towards undertaking ongoing training. A staff appraisal system is currently being set up.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed about the pre-school and are provided with good quality information about the setting and its provision. Staff ensure that parents have excellent opportunities to contribute to their child's learning and have regular access to their achievement records so that they may discuss these with key workers. The positive feedback supports that parents are happy with the progress their child is making and the level of support they receive from the staff.

What is being done well?

- Staff's sound understanding of the needs of individual children ensures that realistic challenges are set that will progress children appropriately.
- Children's personal social and emotional development is very good. Children are confident, sociable and are forming caring relationships with each other and the staff.
- Staff work very well as a team and organise the sessions to ensure that the children derive the maximum learning potential.
- Children have very good opportunities for self initiated learning.

What needs to be improved?

- curriculum records.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There was one key issues raised at the previous inspection. The assessment records to include all six areas more comprehensively.

Very good progress has been made to address this key issue. Since the last inspection the pre-school has introduced new assessment records that cover all six areas of learning assessing children's progress through the stepping stones.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are eager to learn and confidently use the resources. They participate well during group activities and contribute their own ideas and previous learning. They concentrate well during focus activities and are learning to sit quietly when appropriate. Children make independent choices and are becoming aware of their preferences and feelings. They display kindness and consideration towards others through sharing, taking turns and helping to tidy away between activities.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children communicate well with confidence. They initiate conversation and can extend discussion and solve problems by asking questions that satisfy their curiosity and enable them to put their own ideas into practice. Most children can recognise their own name and are making good progress with writing. They are developing an increasing understanding of linking sounds to letters and that print has meaning. They listen attentively during stories.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children can count well in sequence and are developing an understanding of addition and subtraction. They use resources well to sort, compare and to learn about size and quantity. Children can recognise a range of shapes and can assess how to fit shapes together. They use their learning in every day play and conversation.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children display an interest in their environment and can recognise the changes in weather conditions and the seasons. They are learning about nature, living things and how things grow. Children use resources to learn how to construct, assemble and join materials. They make good use of the computer and are very capable with the mouse. Children are developing an awareness of other cultures and beliefs through positive exposure to festivals and cultures that are celebrated.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and safely around the pre-school environment. They show a good understanding of spatial awareness. Children are developing their small and whole body skills well and can use large and small equipment with increasing skill. Children are learning about the importance of staying healthy and recognise the importance of this.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are learning to explore colour, texture, shape and form through a varied programme. They are confident and can describe changes that take place and express their feelings about these changes. Children make very good use of creative materials and use resources in interesting ways. Children use their imagination well during role play and act out every day experiences. Children have good exposure to music and movement and use musical instruments to support their learning.

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 the following:
- further develop short term curriculum plans to demonstrate more clearly how the learning objective will be presented and delivered to children.

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.