



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127521

DfES Number: 512372

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/02/2005
Inspector Name Margaret Travers

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name School House Nursery
Setting Address School Road
Sandwich
Kent
CT13 9HT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of School House Nursery

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name School House Nursery
Address School Road
Sandwich
Kent
CT13 9HT

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

School House Nursery opened in 1992. It operates from a converted schoolhouse on the grounds of Sandwich Infant School. The nursery has access to four rooms, toilets, a kitchen and an outside area. The nursery serves the local area and surrounding towns.

The nursery is registered to provide 20 places for children aged 2 to 7 years. There are currently 56 children on roll. This includes 19 children aged 3 and 4 years old who are in receipt of nursery education funding.

Children attend a variety of sessions each week. Staff have experience working with children with special needs, and support children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week, for fifty one weeks a year, from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Thursday and 08:00 to 16:00 on Fridays.

There are two part time and four full time staff, five have early years qualifications. The nursery receives support from a Pre-school Learning Alliance Development worker and a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

School House Nursery provides high-quality nursery education overall, which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff organise the resources and accommodation well. They use displays and tactile discovery areas to provide an interesting, stimulating and attractive learning environment. They are enthusiastic and work together to share ideas. Staff plan a wide range of interesting activities in which children are progressing well through the stepping stones towards the early learning goals. They observe and assess children regularly through a keyworker system, which works effectively as staff get to know children well and plan for individual learning. Staff have good relationships with the children and parents and create a welcoming, secure environment, encouraging child initiated learning through choice and practical activities. The nursery supports children with English as an additional language and special educational needs well.

The leadership and management are very good. The nursery is owned by a committee of parents, and managed daily by the manager and deputy. Parents are very supportive and work well with the staff team which has a positive impact on the children's learning. Staff are appraised, monitored and supported well and attend external training sessions. Management are committed and enthusiastic and are working towards achieving the Kent kitemark accreditation award.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the management committee and in their children's learning and development. They are informed of weekly plans and activities, which enables them to extend learning at home and contribute items for the interest and sounds tables. Parents receive regular informative newsletters and invitations to parents evenings. They can discuss their child with staff daily.

What is being done well?

- Staff develop and organise resources well, effectively using them to develop children's learning during play and practical activities.
- Children are learning through interesting discovery areas where they can discuss and feel a range of natural and made objects.
- Staff use the daily routine and accommodation well to extend learning. They differentiate well during activities, meeting individual children's learning needs.
- Children consider others and are polite. They say please and thank you and are developing good self independence.
- Children enjoy the activities on offer, and are motivated to extend their own

learning through self initiated choice in all areas, especially knowledge and understanding of the world.

- The nursery works very well with parents.

What needs to be improved?

- to continue working towards the accreditation kitemark award ensuring the high standards are maintained.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The improvement since the last inspection has been very good.

The nursery have developed good procedures to monitor planning and the quality of teaching, and show how activities are linked to all stepping stones over time. All staff are aware of the links between activities and all six areas of learning. The prospectus has been revised and parent's receive good information about the curriculum and six areas of learning.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy learning through a wide range of interesting activities. They can choose and initiate their own learning using interesting resources such as magnets and puppets. They are developing confidence and self esteem as they discuss photographs of themselves and receive praise and encouragement as they experiment with clay, cornflour and frozen water. Behaviour is very good and fostered well, and children put resources and aprons away. They pour and prepare their drinks and snacks.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing good language skills and discuss ideas and news and think of words that rhyme, the seasons of the year, and how telescopes work. They bring in items for the sounds table and play listening and sounds games. Children recognise their names and those of other children, and practise writing these in the writing and role play areas and on paintings and drawings. Children enjoy books and stories and interact well in discussing story characters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count others and find the correct number of cups, discussing how many more they will need. They sing well known number songs and work out how many left. They measure onions and sunflowers as they grow, and make shiny triangle pictures. Children develop good awareness of weight and quantity during cookery activities and are encouraged to solve simple problems when using shape sorters and when building railway tracks.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children explore natural and made objects in the discovery showcase, discussing where these items come from. They use bug viewers and magnifying glasses to watch the goldfish and observe growing carrots and cress. They show fascination when using prisms. Children learn about warm and cold weather and other cultures through practical activities linked to a world map and display table. The nursery are collecting items consistent with children attending from other countries.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use a large climbing frame, swing, slide and trampoline outside to develop confidence and coordination. They have daily opportunities to learn to balance and develop stamina. Children learn to throw and catch balls. They use a basket ball net and large wheeled toys well, and use a three person tricycle together. Children use clay, dough, scissors and construction toys to develop good dexterity and manipulative skills.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children blow paint onto paper; use marbles to make paint patterns, and mix cornflour and water. They have free creative opportunities daily to explore colours, textures and ways of making models. Children sing and use percussion instruments and develop their own stories using a puppet theatre. They draw ideas about what the greedy grey octopus looks like, and use a range of tactile collage materials to design pictures.

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 improving the following:
- to continue to work towards the Kent accreditation kitemark award ensuring the high standards are maintained.

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.