

Crigglestone Nursery School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	108137
Local Authority	Wakefield
Inspection number	277912
Inspection dates	18–19 January 2006
Reporting inspector	Joyce Taylor

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

Type of school	Nursery
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3–5
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Elizabeth Bell Mrs A Wilford
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	High Street Crigglestone Wakefield West Yorkshire WF4 3EB
Telephone number	01924 303290
Fax number	01924 303920

Age group	3–5
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an additional inspector.

Description of the school

Crigglestone Nursery is a very popular school. It is situated just south of Wakefield and caters for children from birth to five years old. There are 89 children in the nursery class who attend for part-time sessions of two and a half hours in either the morning or the afternoon. Some of these children remain on site all day attending wraparound care facilities as well as their nursery session.

All the nursery children are of white British heritage. The proportions of children having learning difficulties and/or disabilities are well below average with a tiny proportion having a statement of special educational need. This is a school with a stable pupil population, little staff turnover and strong community links. It has gained Achievement awards and was previously identified as a Beacon school.

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

- Improve the documentation used when monitoring and evaluating staff in order to track developments and record effective improvement strategies.
- Ensure governors track new developments more effectively in order to evaluate their success fully.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are outstanding. In mathematics, for example, three year olds giggled and hugged themselves with excitement as a feely bag containing two-dimensional shapes passed among them. The enjoyable activity ensured they rapidly learned the names of the shapes. In a story session, the teacher's particularly useful interpretations of the text ensured the older children understood the dilemma suffered by a 'big boy' who had to put up with a naughty baby brother. They listened extremely attentively and everyone thoughtfully answered the particular question directed at them during the story telling.

Activities are planned with meticulous attention to earlier assessments so that tasks stretch children and support their different abilities. Between the focused teaching sessions, whilst children explore very high quality free choice activities, all staff work with one or two children at a time moving their learning forward and recording what they know and can do. All children are assessed each day as they move through steps designed to match their capabilities. Assessments are used to show how quickly children make progress and highlight strengths or weaknesses in any area of learning.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is outstanding. Exciting activities ensure that whilst some children work with staff others have a wide and fascinating choice of activities to ensure they make very good progress. In the mathematics area, for example, small Russian dolls, beautifully painted in metallic and glittery paint, captivate the children as they are fitted into silvery boxes of varying sizes. In the outdoor area, many activities are provided to encourage children to find out how things work and they eagerly tackle, among many other tasks, large-scale building, passing and overtaking each other safely on their bikes and bouncing enthusiastically on inflated rubber shapes.

Policemen, health visitors and postmen, amongst many others, visit the school and widen the children's experiences of their local area. Children also walk around the immediate area to

become more aware of their environment. All staff ensure that tasks support personal development, as well as focusing on areas of learning, for example, they expect children to take responsibility for tidying up. The very effective curriculum for personal, social and emotional development reflects the hard work and effort the school has invested, resulting in a calm and caring community.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The school provides an outstanding level of care for the children. Staff know the children extremely well and immediately go to any child who looks unsure or unhappy. Children are highly valued and treated with great consideration. They trust and like the adults they work with and feel completely confident and secure in classes and outdoors. The school works most effectively with outside agencies and parents to ensure children receive any additional support they may need. All staff receive training in child protection and arrangements to ensure the school is a safe place are most effective. The outstanding assessment of children's progress and standards makes sure staff identify what children need to learn next in order to speed their learning. Notes of children's personal development or of any learning difficulty record their well-being alongside standards and provide a very clear picture of these young learners.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Thank you for your help when I visited your school earlier this month. I enjoyed talking with you about your work and finding out about the things you like doing.

I found that your school is an especially good one, mostly because your headteacher is brilliant at spotting how to make things better. Your teachers work very hard and are particularly good at helping you do well in your work, and they provide lots of exciting things for you to play with. Whilst you are at school you are very good. You get on together extremely well and are kind and helpful to each other, you seem to thoroughly enjoy all the things you do.

I have asked your headteacher and governors to keep up their good work so that all the new ideas in the school are looked at very carefully and remembered for the future.

I hope you carry on enjoying school and helping your teachers make Crigglestone Nursery School a lovely place to learn.