



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY261466

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/05/2004
Inspector Name Halla McGrady

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Tot Spot Day Nursery Ltd
Setting Address Dean Clough Mill House
Dean Clough
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX3 5AX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Tot Spot Day Nursery Ltd 4381924

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Tot Spot Day Nursery Ltd
Address Mill House
Dean Clough
Halifax
HX3 5AX

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

Tot Spot Day Nursery is situated at the Dean Clough Mill Complex in Halifax, West Yorkshire. The premises is located in an old mill house that has been specifically re-developed for use as a children's nursery. The nursery was registered in September 2003, for the full day care of 70 children between the ages of 0 - 5 years. It serves the employees of Dean Clough, and the local community. The premises are spread across the ground floor level with full disabled access and are divided into specific play rooms linked to the ages of children attending. A good sized outdoor play area is available to the rear of the building. The nursery is open weekdays all the year round, excluding Bank Holidays, between the hours of 7.30 and 18.30. There are 53 children on roll, of whom 3 are funded 3 year olds, and 1 is a funded 4 year old. There are 7 qualified nursery nurses, and 1 trainee nursery nurse. The member of staff who currently works with the funded children has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Educational Studies, and a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Childcare. The nursery receives support from the Early Years Child Development Partnership, the Child Care Development Officer, the Children's Community Nursing Team, and the Speech and Language Therapy Service.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Tot Spot Nursery provides good quality nursery education, which enables children to make generally good progress towards the early learning goals in the area of physical, creative and personal, social and emotional development, and very good progress in communication, language and literacy, mathematical development and knowledge and understanding of the world.

The quality of teaching is generally good. The staff members have very good relationships, and levels of interaction with the children. They have an understanding of the early learning goals and of the stepping stones, provides a good range of activities, and ask open ended questions. However, although many resources and activities are available for the children's use, they are, on the whole, not on display, and have to be requested by the children. This limits the opportunities for children to consolidate their learning, by developing and refining skills learned. In addition, the provision for the development of large physical skills is limited. Staff manage children's behaviour well, using positive techniques such as discussion and distraction. A system is in place to monitor children's achievements, and these are used to inform and guide the planning.

Leadership and management is generally good. The manager values her staff, and is keen to continue building a strong effective team, by supporting and encouraging staff, as well as offering a range of training opportunities. She acts on advice from a number of professionals, and is committed to the continuing improvement of care and education for all children. There is not yet a rigorous enough system to monitor and evaluate the nursery provision.

Partnerships with parents are very good. Parents talk informally with staff, but also are invited to more structured meetings with staff, such as open evenings. Regular newsletters and a parents' notice board also help to keep parents informed about the nursery and its provision.

What is being done well?

- Parent's are provided with good information about the nursery and are actively encouraged to be involved with their children's learning.
- The manager is committed to continuing the improvement of the provision.
- Children are able to listen and respond with enjoyment to stories, songs and rhymes; they understand that print carries meaning. They are able to use mathematical language well.
- Children are confident well behaved and eager to learn.

What needs to be improved?

- the planning of regular activities to promote the development of children's large physical skills to include balancing and climbing
- the presentation of resources to enable children to access a wider range of activities independently.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children separate from carers confidently. They form good relationships with adults, and with each other. They play well together, sharing and taking turns. Behaviour is very good, and children respond positively to the boundaries set by adults. They show respect and concern for others. They are eager to learn, enthusiastic, and motivated. There are limited opportunities for children to be independent, select their own resources, and make their own choices and decisions.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's language is developing well. They speak and listen in various situations, confidently expressing their thinking. Children enjoy looking at books, handling them appropriately. They join in with familiar stories, songs, and rhymes. More able children are beginning to link sounds to letters. All children recognise their names. Children understand that print carries meaning and they write for different purposes. More able children are beginning to write recognisable letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

All children count confidently to 5, and older, and more able children count to 10. All children are developing an awareness of size, shape, position and quantity, and use appropriate language in their play. More able children demonstrate an understanding of basic addition and subtraction, in practical everyday situations, such as snack. Planned activities provide opportunities for children to talk about, recognise, and recreate simple patterns.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children make very good progress in identifying features of living things, objects and events, through the wide range of activities provided. Practical, planned activities ensure that children are developing a growing awareness of their own, and other cultures, and a positive respect for the natural world and the environment. They have a developing understanding of past and present events in their own lives.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children move confidently and safely through the environment. They show an awareness of space, and others, and can negotiate obstacles successfully. Children have good control with small equipment, such as pencils, scissors, glue spreaders & cutlery, but older, and more able younger children have insufficient opportunities to develop and refine skills of climbing, using large equipment. Children's developing awareness of the importance of staying healthy is supported by the planned activities.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children explore shape, colour, form, and texture, in two and three dimensions, making models, painting, and using collage materials in a wide range of planned activities. However, they have insufficient opportunities to be spontaneous, and use their imagination to explore media and materials for their own purpose, and in art and design. They are confident in expressing real and imagined experiences in role play. Children enjoy music and song, and respond enthusiastically.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally 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: THE KEY ISSUES

- plan regular opportunities for children to practise their large physical skills, particularly with regard to balancing and climbing
- improve the layout of resources to ensure that children have access, and are encouraged to make choices, and develop their skills.

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.