



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY240642

DfES Number: 516812

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/06/2004
Inspector Name Jean Ainsworth-Smith

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type
Setting Name Beechwood Schools Ltd
Setting Address 55 Leigham Court Road
Streatham
London
SW16 2NJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

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

Beechwood School is a privately owned independent day school for children aged 3 - 11 years. It was established in 1987 and is situated in Streatham in the London Borough of Lambeth. It is accommodated in a large spacious converted house. There is a board of directors with three executive directors and one non-executive director. Meetings are held monthly at board level and fortnightly for all members of staff. Beechwood School attained the Investor in People standard in June 2000 and was successfully re-assessed in 2002. Most children reflect the ethnic make-up of the local community and are mainly from Afro-Caribbean backgrounds.

The nursery and reception classes are managed by three qualified early years teachers and two assistants. At present the nursery and reception classes run concurrently with the rest of the school and children attend for ten sessions each week during term time only (36 weeks in the year). There are plans to extend the day and the sessions to reflect the needs of the many working parents.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Beechwood School offers good quality provision which helps the children to make good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. The staff have a good knowledge of the early learning goals. This information and their knowledge of the children are used to plan interesting lessons which supports the six areas of learning in most areas. Plans make very clear what children are expected to learn from the activities and the lessons are carefully evaluated. The children are well behaved and they relate and interact well with each other and with the staff. They are very enthusiastic about learning and are clearly happy to be at school.

Leadership and management is very good. The head regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of the provision. The staff in the Foundation Stage work very well as a team and they are well deployed.

The partnership with parents is very good and contributes to the children's progress towards the early learning goals. The parents feel very involved with the school and their children's learning and they are given much information, including weekly newsletters and written reports about their children.

What is being done well?

- Relationships between the staff, the children and their parents are very good. These help the children to develop their confidence and support all aspects of their learning.
- The children are offered a range of activities which help to promote and support their learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- The staff engender an enthusiasm for learning to the children and this has a marked impact on the children's learning.
- The Foundation Stage staff work well as a team and are well deployed.
- The school is led and managed well by the head who relates well with the Foundation Stage staff. There is effective monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the provision.

What needs to be improved?

- More opportunities for the children to climb and balance outside as well as inside
- More opportunities for the children to paint as and when they wish.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made generally good progress since the last inspection. Learning objectives for the six areas of learning are now clearly indicated on the planning sheets. The children now have opportunities to choose from a wide range of activities and to select materials to communicate their own creative ideas; and there is a better balance between those activities which are teacher directed and those which are child initiated. More effective use is now made of the practical room so that all four year olds have more frequent access to the range of play activities and resources which are kept there.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children relate well with each other and with the adults and they are well behaved. They are very caring of each other and they are able to cooperate and to share. They clearly know the difference between right and wrong. Their concentration is very good and they are very independent, taking responsibility for their own personal hygiene. They show a real enthusiasm for learning. They are able to tidy up and to look after the resources and equipment.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

The children listen attentively to each other and to the adults. They listen to explanations and are able to follow instructions. They talk readily on a variety of different subjects. They enjoy books and stories and they enjoy learning and using new vocabulary. They have a very good grasp of letter names and letter sounds. Many of the children are able to read and they are able to write, forming their letters correctly.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The children are encouraged to think about mathematical processes. They have opportunities for learning about shape, size and position. They enjoy counting activities and they are able to calculate. The staff take every opportunity to introduce the children to mathematical ideas whenever possible.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

The children are encouraged to ask questions. They are encouraged to think about events that have happened in the past. They are encouraged to look at similarities and differences and to use their senses. They have opportunities for building and constructing using different materials. They are able to use computers. They are encouraged to think about other cultures and beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

The children are able to walk, run, hop and jump. They do not have enough opportunities to climb and balance. They are able to practise their fine motor skills using a wide range of tools and equipment. They are aware of the need for healthy food and for personal hygiene; and they are aware of the need to think about safety, both for themselves and for others.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
The children enjoy singing, especially when they can also use actions and when they are accompanied by a piano. They enjoy using their imaginations, especially when dressing up and involving themselves in role play. They enjoy painting and drawing. There are fewer opportunities for children to paint during free play activities.	
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

- Key issues:
- provide more opportunities for climbing and balancing outside as well as inside
- increase opportunities for the children to paint as and when they wish.

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.