

Follow-Through Inspection Report on Al Basateen Kindergarten - Hatta

Report issued June 2009

Basic information

Al Basateen Kindergarten – Hatta was inspected in February 2009 as part of the initial quality inspection cycle across all schools in Dubai. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages. It evaluated children's' achievements, the effectiveness of the school, the environment for learning and the school's processes for self-evaluation and capacity for improvement. During this inspection, school inspectors identified a number of recommendations which the school was required to address.

Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau (DSIB) conducted a Follow-Through Inspection during May 2009. The purpose of this Follow-Through Inspection was to evaluate the progress made by the school in achieving improvements based on the recommendations set out in the first inspection report.

Progress

Inspectors judged that Al Basateen Kindergarten – Hatta had not yet satisfactorily addressed the recommendations made by DSIB at the Initial Quality Inspection. Inspectors will continue to undertake Follow-Through Inspections at three monthly intervals until the recommendations made by inspectors have been satisfactorily addressed.

At the time of the next full inspection the school will have an opportunity to alter the unsatisfactory grading achieved in the Initial Quality Inspection.

Initial Quality Inspection Recommendations

- Improve attainment and progress in all subjects;
- Improve teaching methods to meet the needs of young children;
- Develop the curriculum to provide a sufficiently engaging and balanced range of activities for all children;
- Improve health and safety to include evacuation procedures, supervision of children, and overcrowding on school buses;
- Improve leadership capacity to self-evaluate and set short and long term goals for school improvement.

Overview of progress achieved

Improve attainment and progress in all subjects.

The school had not yet made satisfactory progress in addressing this recommendation.

Following the initial quality inspection teachers visited other kindergartens to observe different ways of improving attainment and children's progress. As a result, classrooms in the next academic year will have interest corners, a dressing up area and a carpeted sitting area. Work and contracts for these developments had commenced. Some additional resources had been purchased to support children's development. For example, more reading books and more manipulative aids had been purchased. At the time of the Follow-Through Inspection it was not yet possible to measure whether these steps will result in improved attainment and progress by children. Much will depend on progress towards other recommendations, particularly teaching methods and curriculum.

Improve teaching methods to meet the needs of young children.

The school had not yet made satisfactory progress in addressing this recommendation.

Teachers reported that following the initial quality inspection they attended workshops on teaching methods and had observed other teachers in a local kindergarten. As a result they had begun to use more 'manipulatives' such as clay and had included more stories in their teaching. Teachers indicated that they intended to use the new interest, dressing up areas and reading corners in the classrooms to develop children's skills in the new academic year. There was no clear plan as to how teachers would vary their teaching methods to meet different learning needs and abilities. An additional teacher had been recruited to support children's skills in learning English. The school had also established links with a local primary school for the purpose of professional development and sharing of teaching methods. It was not possible to evaluate the impact of this on children's learning needs at this early stage.

Develop the curriculum to provide a sufficiently engaging and balanced range of activities for all children.

The school had not yet made satisfactory progress in addressing this recommendation.

The curriculum had been developed by staff from another linked kindergarten and had been submitted to KHDA for approval. The curriculum had been designed from a variety of other curricula. The new curriculum had an emphasis on thematic work but will not be implemented until the next school year. It was, consequently, too early to evaluate the benefit to children's learning or whether it will provide an engaging and balanced range of activities for all children. The school had purchased some additional resources to support the curriculum. These include some more reading books, games and ICT resources. Planned visits to other kindergartens had been instigated to support children's abilities to adapt to different situations.

Improve health and safety to include evacuation procedures, supervision of children, and overcrowding on school buses.

The school had not yet made satisfactory progress in addressing this recommendation.

Since the initial quality inspection there had not been an evacuation. Plans had not been developed to ensure the safe evacuation of children in the case of an emergency. Further coordination with the Civil Defence was required to guarantee up to date maintenance of fire fighting equipment, as well as the development of evacuation plans. The children had participated in a road awareness campaign receiving a certificate from the local police. Greater emphasis had been placed on the supervision of students but a formalised policy was yet to be developed. Teachers had been instructed not to leave children unattended at any time. All school buses had been inspected and one bus replaced. Another additional bus had been purchased to relieve over-crowding issues. All classrooms had been provided with small first aid kits. In May 2009 the kindergarten had signed a contract with a local hospital which ensured the provision of medical services to children. This service began in term four and included a doctor and a nurse attending four times a year for three hours per visit. The medical staff will provide routine medical examinations and check ups, first aid treatment in case of emergencies, assessment and treatment of acute cases and maintenance of student files. These arrangements will assist in the provision of regular check ups and monitoring of student health but the absence of more regular medical support requires attention.

Improve leadership capacity to self-evaluate and set short and long term goals for school improvement.

The school had not yet made satisfactory progress in addressing this recommendation.

A number of the actions reported against the other recommendations have resulted from the initiative of the Principal. The Principal provided the inspectors with copies of a new timetable and a more comprehensive reporting format to be used in the next academic year. However, an effective action plan had yet to be developed to show how the school will continue to address the recommendations from the initial quality inspection. This should be forwarded to Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau by the end of this school year. There was no evidence of plans to improve the leadership capacity of the school, to self-evaluate and set short and long term goals for school improvement.

What happens next?

DSIB will continue to undertake Follow-Through Inspections of Al Basateen Kindergarten – Hatta until the school has progressed to the stage where they are included in the usual inspection cycle for all Dubai schools. DSIB will continue to report to parents regarding the progress made by the school until this occurs.

How to contact us

If you have a concern or wish to comment on any aspect of this report you should contact: inspection@khda.gov.ae.

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