



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 101691

DfES Number:

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 09/10/2003
Inspector Name Miriam Sheila Brown

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Swindon Village Early Years
Setting Address Church Road
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 9RE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Swindon Village Early Years, C/o Debra Styman

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Swindon Village Early Years, C/o Debra Styman
Address 51 Golden Miller Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 4RD

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and 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

Swindon Village Early Years, is a privately run playgroup sited in the village hall in Swindon Village, which is on the outskirts of Cheltenham. The playgroup serves the local community and the majority of children transfer to Swindon Village Primary School. The group is registered for 26 children aged two years to five years and accepts children from two years nine months. There are currently 25 funded children attending the group. It is open from 09.00 to 11.30, Monday to Friday and 12.30 to 15.00 on a Monday. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings are for pre-school children only. There are six regular staff members who have relevant qualifications and the one of the playleaders is in the process of extending her qualification to the National Vocational Qualification at level 3. Staff have also attended music workshops and HIV and Aids training. The group currently care for one child with special educational needs and there are no children who have English as an additional language. To date the playgroup have not had support from the Foundation Stage consultants attached to the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. The group have good links with the local infant school and use the school playground for some outdoor play. They also go on outings around the village and to the local park, church and farm.

How good is the Day Care?

Swindon Village Early Years provides good care for children and staff are appropriately trained or in the process of extending their training. The organisation of the group is well planned and effective in offering parents clear information about meeting the needs of the children. The hall is bright and attractive and space sufficient for the numbers of children. The toilets used by the children are adult-sized and not easy for them to use independently. Children choose their activities from a wide and varied range offered each day and all equipment is clean and safe.

Children's safety is effectively maintained at all times and there is an extra member of staff at each session to cover for any extraordinary circumstances. The group use good procedures to maintain the health and hygiene of the children and medication

and accident records are kept appropriately. The majority of staff have first aid training. Snack time is a pleasant, social time when the children enjoy a variety of healthy snacks and are encouraged in their sharing and talking to each other. All staff have attended child protection training and have a good awareness of the procedures to follow if there are any concerns.

Children of all ages have many good opportunities to explore and investigate in their play. The range of activities are well planned to meet individual needs and regular assessments of children ensure that they continue to progress as they play. Staff are attentive to children and listen carefully to them. The group have experience in caring for children with special needs. Children's behaviour is very good and staff are calm and consistent in their approach to any issues.

The partnership with parents is good and they are offered comprehensive information about group policies and organisation. Parents do not have any formal feedback about their children but staff are available to speak with parents on a daily basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to develop medication records to include parent's signatures, to request parent's permission for emergency medical treatment and to develop the child protection policy, making it available to parents.

All of these actions have been met and as a result children are now better protected if they become unwell during a playgroup session and parents have clear, readily available information about the groups approach to child protection issues.

What is being done well?

- The planning and balance of activities for all children is very good and effectively helps them to progress in all areas of development.
- Special needs are well supported within the group and offer children appropriate support in conjunction with parents and other professionals.
- The range of resources to meet the varying needs of the children is good.
- Children's behaviour is very good and consistently supported by staff who use appropriate strategies to encourage positive behaviour and assist children in any potentially difficult situations. Children are encouraged to support and enjoy each other's successes.

What needs to be improved?

- safe access to toilets for the younger children, so they are able to become independent in toileting.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.

As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
4	ensure children are able to use the toilets easily and independently.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Swindon Village Early Years offers good quality provision for children and they are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Personal, social and emotional, mathematical and physical development are very strong areas and there are no significant weaknesses.

The quality of teaching is generally good and staff provide a very good range of activities to help the children progress. They plan interesting topic work which extends the children's thinking and increases their confidence and awareness of themselves as individuals and as part of a group. Communication skills are well supported but opportunities for children to recognise initial sounds and to relate these to letters, are limited. The staff provide many excellent opportunities for children to learn in mathematics and children are confident in their number work. Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is generally good but the use of recycled products for modelling is limited. Physical development is well supported by the playgroup. The support for children with special educational needs is very good.

Leadership of the setting is generally good. The committed management and strong staff team all have relevant training which is ongoing. They are totally committed to the continuing improvement of the group and seek regular feedback from the local school, parents and other professionals to assist in evaluating their provision. Children's assessments are used to monitor the effectiveness of the educational programme.

The partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are warmly welcomed and may join in with relevant sessions such as topics about families. Comprehensive information about policies and daily running of the group is provided, together with good information about the Foundation Stage and early learning goals. Parents do not have a structured time for discussing children's progress although they may speak with key workers whenever they wish.

What is being done well?

- Children are confident and able to self regulate during different activities throughout the session.
- Children's language development is supported well by staff who extend their thinking and make good use of story and circle times.
- Children's knowledge of number and related mathematical ideas is developing very well.
- The programme to support physical development is helping the children in their awareness of how their bodies work and how to care for themselves.

- A wide variety of opportunities are offered to children to develop their imaginations and senses through various painting techniques, music, cookery and role play.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to hear, recognise and link initial sounds with letters;
- opportunities for children to build using a variety of tools and recycled materials;
- reporting of children's progress to parents so that it is a shared commitment by the group and not reliant on parent's request.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This is the groups first inspection for funded children.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident, able to self-regulate their activities and follow instructions well. They are starting to make positive relationships with staff and each other and play well in small groups. They have a growing awareness of the local community which is well supported by trips, visits and discussions about where 'Lucky' has been to visit overnight. Their behaviour is very good and supported appropriately by a consistent staff approach.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children talk happily about topic work such as transport and use language appropriately in their imaginary play. They enjoy listening to a wide variety of stories and have opportunities to act these out using the puppet theatre or role-play areas. However, opportunities for them to recognise and use initial sounds are missed. Many children recognise their own names and enjoy 'writing' in their play. Colourful wall displays support children's early reading skills well.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's awareness of number is developing well and some can count to twenty and beyond. They record their mathematical findings on charts and enjoy estimating when playing with water. Some are able to recognise written numerals to seven and most can match sets and copy patterns. Children have opportunities to measure at the writing table, in cooking activities, circle times and using construction sets. Their mathematical language is developing well.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children explore and investigate using many different objects and materials, including rice, dough and ice. They are learning about everyday technology by using tape recorders, ovens and refridgerators. Their sense of time is developing well through topic work and daily group routines. Children construct using sets but opportunities for them to use recycled materials are limited. Children's awareness of different cultures is developing positively through topic work throughout the year.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are developing their muscle control through music and movement sessions, play in the park and the local school playground. They have a good awareness of space during physical play and in confined areas. Their fine motor control is growing and they enjoy using a variety of large and small equipment such as chopsticks, glue sticks and sponges although there is limited use of scissors. They enjoy using cookery equipment for mixing and weighing.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy using many different painting techniques including tea bags and finger painting. They know a wide repertoire of songs and enjoy these throughout the session. Role-play areas are well planned and capture the children's imaginations effectively. Good use is made of the puppet theatre. Children have exciting opportunities to use their senses, to try new tastes and explore many different materials, such as gloop, bubbly water and ice.

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

- increase opportunities for children to hear, recognise and link initial sounds with letters;
- provide opportunities for children to build using recycled materials and a variety of tools and equipment;
- develop a shared commitment with parents to have regular feedback about their children's progress.

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.

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

STANDARD 1 - SUITABLE PERSON

Adults providing day care, looking after children or having unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.

STANDARD 2 - ORGANISATION

The registered person meets required adult: child ratios, ensures that training and qualifications requirements are met and organises space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively.

STANDARD 3 - CARE, LEARNING AND PLAY

The registered person meets children's individual needs and promotes their welfare. They plan and provide activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities.

STANDARD 4 - PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. They provide adequate space in an appropriate location, are welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for a range of activities which promote their development.

STANDARD 5 - EQUIPMENT

Furniture, equipment and toys are provided which are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

STANDARD 6 - SAFETY

The registered person takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents.

STANDARD 7 - HEALTH

The registered person promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures when they are ill.

STANDARD 8 - FOOD AND DRINK

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

STANDARD 9 - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The registered person and staff actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children.

STANDARD 10 - SPECIAL NEEDS (INCLUDING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES)

The registered person is aware that some children may have special needs and is

proactive in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of the child within the setting in partnership with the parents and other relevant parties.

STANDARD 11 - BEHAVIOUR

Adults caring for children in the provision are able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour in a way which promotes their welfare and development.

STANDARD 12 - WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The registered person and staff work in partnership with parents and to meet the needs of the children, both individually and as a group. Information is shared.

STANDARD 13 - CHILD PROTECTION

The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Area Child Protection Committee and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into practice.

STANDARD 14 - DOCUMENTATION

Records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, or to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained. Records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.