



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 321497

DfES Number: 519893

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/11/2003
Inspector Name	Carol-Anne Shaw

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Marygate Playgroup
Setting Address	Clifton York North Yorkshire YO30 6AL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Marygate Playgroup, Clifton Methodist Church
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Marygate Playgroup, Clifton Methodist Church
Address	Clifton York North Yorkshire YO30 6AL

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

Marygate Playgroup is a sessional group established over 30 years. It operates from two rooms in the Methodist Church near Clifton Green on a main road into the city centre. Marygate Playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently 14 children from two and a half years to four years on roll. This includes 11 funded three year olds, no funded four year olds attend. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens four sessions a week Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings during school term times. Sessions are 09:20 until 11:50.

Four staff work with the children. Three staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the York Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. The group is run by a committee of volunteers. It is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Marygate Playgroup provides satisfactory sessional day care for children. The organisation and management of the group is satisfactory with most of the required systems, policies and procedures available. Three staff are accessing relevant childcare training, all staff have a valid first aid for children qualification. The premises are satisfactory, they are organised to meet the needs of the children attending. The group have access to a range of appropriate equipment, resources and child size furniture.

The safety in the playgroup is satisfactory with all the required policies and procedures for staff in place. The hygiene is appropriate, staff are active in promoting good health. Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through everyday routines. Children's behaviour is very good, staff promote good behaviour with positive encouragement and praise.

The care learning and play is satisfactory, a curriculum of play and learning opportunities, linked to the stepping stones to the early learning goals, are available each session. Staff are aware how children learn through play and use everyday activities to build children's knowledge and understanding. Most activities are appropriate and children are confident and settled in the group.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff inform parents on a daily basis of children's progress in the session. Information about topics and how parents can support their child's learning is available. Parents are encouraged to come into the group to help and are asked to join the Committee. The information area gives parents access to relevant information about the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

All the issues that were noted at the last inspection have been addressed by the group. Staff are now accessing suitable training to meet the qualification requirements.

All required documentation is now available and is suitable for the safe management of the group.

Satisfactory arrangements to share policies and procedures with parents are now in place.

What is being done well?

- The staff utilise the three rooms well, they are organised to give children access to a wide range of different play activities that promote learning.
- The parent helpers are valued and enabled to work with the children, ensuring good adult to child ratio's in the session are maintained.
- The staff training in first aid ensures appropriate care will be available in an emergency.
- The staff manage children's behaviour very well in a calm consistent way, ensuring children understand. Children's behaviour is good, they are learning to share equipment and take turns.
- The partnership with parents is good, they are welcomed into the group and encouraged to become involved with the management of the provision.

What needs to be improved?

- the detail in the operational plan and availability of it to parents
- the use of the sit and ride equipment to ensure it is not disruptive to children's learning
- the access of equipment for the more able children to self select
- snack time to develop children's independence.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
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<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
2	Ensure the operational plan is completed and made available to parents.
3	Ensure the session is not disrupted by the use of the sit and ride equipment.
5	Ensure the more able children have access to selecting equipment/resources to extend their play/learning.
8	Consider how snack time could be used to extend children's development/independence.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Marygate Playgroup provides a welcoming child centred atmosphere where children settle are confident and motivated to learn. The three year olds make generally good progress overall towards the early learning goals, but in the area of knowledge and understanding of the world they make very good progress.

Overall the quality of teaching is generally good although the assessment of children and planning is not used to inform future planning. The staff group are enthusiastic and work as a team to provide a wide range of topic based practical activities within the early years curriculum. Most areas of children's development is fostered appropriately. The behaviour of the children is very good, staff manage children effectively in a calm consistent way.

Leadership and management is generally good, support from the committee is developing and they encourage staff to access training. They support staff with resources to enable children to gain knowledge and understanding through interesting topics. At present there is no formal system in place to monitor and evaluate the nursery education.

The Playgroup has formed good partnerships with parents, information is available about their child's learning. Parents are made aware of topics and how they can support their child's learning by bringing in items related to the current topic. Parents are encouraged to help in the group and join the committee.

What is being done well?

- Staff enable children to be interested and motivated to learn, build self confidence and form good relationships within the nursery with both staff and children.
- Staff manage behaviour well, children's behaviour is very good, they respond well to the staff's consistency and praise.
- Staff provide opportunities for children to enjoy books, children are aware books give information about the real and imaginary world and use them confidently.
- Staff provide children with good opportunities to extend their vocabulary and knowledge through the wide range of interesting topics covered.
- Staff give children opportunities to use number and count in everyday situations, access sorting and shapes through interesting activities.
- Staff give very good opportunities for children to progress in knowledge and understanding of the world.

What needs to be improved?

- The planning to link with children's assessments.
- The opportunities for children to self select tools/materials when doing creative work.
- The opportunities for children to attempt mark making/writing in every day play situations.
- The monitoring and evaluation of the nursery education.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There were three key issues for the group at the last inspection all have been addressed.

Develop curriculum planning in all of the six areas of learning, this is now in place and children are progressing in all six areas of learning.

Plan opportunities for children to access mathematical opportunities in every day situations, children are now given lots of opportunities to access number in practical play situations each session.

Develop the programme for knowledge and understanding of the world, the children are now given very good opportunities to explore and investigate the environment/world they live in through topic based activities.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are interested and motivated to learn, they are building self confidence and are forming relationships within the group with both staff and each other. The behaviour of the children is very good, they respond well to the staff's consistency and praise. The children have a good sense of community, they are beginning to have personal independence, help each other, share and take turns.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children enjoy books and listening to stories, they are aware books give information about the real and imaginary world and use them confidently. Staff encourage children to explore imagined experiences. Children have good opportunities to extend their vocabulary through the use of interesting topics. Most children can recognise their own names, however limited opportunities are available for mark making in role play situations.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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All children have good opportunities to use number and count in everyday situations, they access sorting and shapes. Most three year old children can count to five and some can count beyond ten. Children use size language, they are developing an understanding of number and how they relate to real items and are becoming confident in there use. Children know and enjoy number songs and rhymes.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have very good opportunities to learn about their environment, they enjoy making things to support the topic. They show interest in the world they live in, talk about their families, the weather and show interest in the animal world. They learn about different cultures and how children live in other countries.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children move confidently round the nursery indoors. Children's motor skills are developing however planning is not linked to children's individual assessment. The use of the large upstairs room enables children to practice and refine emerging physical skills. Children access a range of large equipment to promote their awareness of space and body control.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
<p>Children use their imagination in role play. Adults support the children's play, joining in when needed but encouraging children to take the lead. Children enjoy painting and making things, their work is valued and taken home for parents. Children have good opportunities to express themselves through music, movement and singing. However, more able children have insufficient opportunities to self select resources and materials, limiting imagination and creativity.</p>	

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

- Use the assessment of children's progress to inform planning
- Provide more opportunities available for children to self select tools and materials to develop their own ideas
- develop opportunities for children to have access to mark making in every day play situations
- Monitor and evaluate the nursery education to ensure they are working to the curriculum for the early years.

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.