



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127105

DfES Number: 520906

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 16/02/2004
Inspector Name Vanessa Wood

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Christchurch Pre-School
Setting Address The Vicarage
48 Old Road East
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1NR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name PCC of Christchurch Milton next Gravesend

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name PCC of Christchurch Milton next Gravesend
Address The Vicarage
48 Old Road East
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1NR

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

Christchurch Pre School opened in 1975. It operates from one room at the Church Hall at Christ Church in Gravesend. The pre school serves the local area.

There are currently 36 children from two and a half years to five years on roll. This includes seven funded three year olds and three funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. No children have special needs. The group supports four children who have English as an additional language.

The group opens for five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 to 11:50 hours.

Six part time members of staff work with the children. All staff have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The nursery education at Christchurch Pre School is generally good. Children are making generally good progress in all areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good overall. Staff are well motivated. They work well as a team and are clear about their objectives. Staff have begun to observe and make notes of children's learning in each of the six early learning goals. They plan a variety of age appropriate practical activities. Resources are good, some reflect different cultures and they are well maintained and displayed to encourage children to make choices. Free play activities are presented in an enthusiastic and lively manner, but older children are not always extended or provided with sufficient challenge during daily routines.

The leadership and management is generally good. Staff are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the setting. There is a commitment to improving practices and staff development. Staff are well supported by the management committee.

The partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are greeted warmly and talk with staff about their children. Parents are well informed about the setting and the group's activities. News letters are issued regularly and the setting welcomes parental feedback.

What is being done well?

- Relationships between staff and the children and their parents is good. These help develop children's confidence and support their learning.
- The planning of stimulating activities across all areas of learning.
- Leadership and management of the pre school and the delivery of teaching.

What needs to be improved?

- staff knowledge of the early learning goals
- planning to ensure account of individual children's assessments inform future planning
- challenge and learning for older children during daily activities
- organisation of snack time to use the time more effectively to extend learning for all children
- planning of the out side play space to ensure that clear learning intentions are in place.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are beginning to show confidence and are interested in play activities. Staff are consistent and set clear boundaries which are understood by children. They help children to understand the need for self discipline and consideration for others. Children learn to share and take turns and to be polite and considerate to others, but more able children are not always allowed to show independence.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Staff provide good support in assisting children's developing use of language. Children are developing a good understanding of the link between sounds and letters through stories, rhymes and songs. They listen well to stories and talk about what will happen next. There are opportunities for children to write for a purpose and understand the meaning of print.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children effectively use and recognise numbers in everyday activities. They show a developing understanding of shape and form. Children can recognise and name basic shapes. However, more able children are not always challenged to develop their understanding of calculation.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are given good opportunities to learn about different environments. Children are developing a sense of time and space and can talk about their environment. A variety of multi cultural resources and activities provide all children with confidence and encourage them to learn about the world. Children do not have regular opportunity to use technology.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children successfully use a range of tools and small equipment. They show good co-ordination skills and awareness of themselves and others. Children have the opportunity to use the outside play space on a regular basis but activities are not planned for a purpose.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children explore colour and texture using a range of painting and collage techniques. Children are provided with opportunities within role play to express and communicate their ideas. Children can explore the making of sounds through the regular use of musical instruments and singing.

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

- Develop staff's understanding of the Early Learning Goals.
- Ensure that planning takes account of individual assessments of children's progress and extends learning for more able children.
- Organise snack time effectively to extend children's learning.
- Ensure learning intentions are clearly identified and used when planning activities for the outside play space.

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.