



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 224060

DfES Number: 518433

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/09/2003

Inspector Name Gill Pollard

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care

Setting Name Busy Bees Pre-School

Setting Address The Nursery Centre
St Lawrences Primary School, Shrewsbury Road
CHURCH STRETTON
Shropshire

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Jenny Ward

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

Busy Bees Playgroup has been registered since 1993. Since September 1999 they have operated in a purpose built demountable building which is situated behind St.Lawrences Primary School in Church Stretton. The group serves the local community.

There are currently 29 children on roll. This includes 3 funded 3 year olds and 9 funded 4 year olds. There are currently no children on roll with special needs, or who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 to 12:00 every day of the week and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 13:00 to 15:00.

Four part time staff work with the children. All members of staff have Early Years qualifications to NVQ level 3. The setting receives support from a teacher mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Busy Bees Playgroup provides good quality care for children.

There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place which underpin the day to day running of the group. The staff group is stable, staff are well qualified and they work well as a team.

The staff ensure children are safe inside and outside and there is a satisfactory policy in place regarding outings. The children play outside but their opportunities to climb or balance are limited as there is no large play equipment.

The planning is comprehensive and provides varied and enjoyable sessions which address each child's individual needs. Children's behaviour is managed in a calm, gentle manner and parents would always be approached if their child's behaviour was not acceptable.

Staff work in partnership with parents, they are welcome in the group, there are formal and informal procedures in place for the exchange of information.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to send a copy of their current public liability insurance to Ofsted, they also agreed to collect the details and the relevant documents for any person that transported the children from the group in their car.

Both of these actions were completed in the time scale agreed.

The current public liability certificate is now displayed for parents on the notice board.

What is being done well?

- Staff exceed the requirements for qualifications. They ensure that ongoing training is available to maintain staff skill levels.
- There is a wide range of toys and activities available. These allow the children to make good progress in all areas of development, especially language and the use of their imagination.
- Good use is made of available space both indoors and out. The rooms are laid out to allow children easy access to toys and equipment. Frequent use is made of the outside play area.
- A high priority is given to the condition and safety of equipment, policies and procedures and the safety of premises.
- Good hygiene procedures are in place with the children. All members of staff have a current first aid certificate.
- Behaviour management is discussed with parents and children are encouraged to behave well. They respond well when being asked to share and take turns.
- Good partnership with parents ensures that children are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for the children to climb and balance.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<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>

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Busy Bees Playgroup provides very good nursery education for three and four year olds, the children learn through a range of well resourced and interesting activities. The staff know the children well and they help and support them to make good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good and key strengths in personal, social and emotional development and children's communication skills are due to the skilful interactions of the staff. They engage children in conversation and foster children's confidence and self esteem. Staff work with parents and other professionals to ensure that all children are included and their educational needs met.

Leadership and management of the setting is very good and staff work well together as a team. The committee provides support for the group and there is a programme set up for appraisal and supervision for all members of staff. All staff have attended EYDCP training courses to improve their knowledge and understanding.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff work hard to ensure that parents are kept well informed about their child's progress. There are plenty of opportunities for parents to be involved in the day to day running of the nursery. There is an informative notice board for passing information to parents.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children are keen and interested to learn.
- Staff's clear understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and early learning goals leads to well planned activities which sustain children's interest and efforts.
- Staff set challenges for all children, including those with special educational needs, that increase their thinking and skills.
- Good use of the local environment fosters children's interest in the natural world.
- Staff work well together and are good role models to provide an emotionally secure learning environment for all children.
- Staff support and encourage the children to become independent, allowing them to choose and make decisions.

What needs to be improved?

- the range of opportunities for the children to climb and balance.

What has improved since the last inspection?
<p>The setting has made very good progress since the last inspection and most recommendations have been addressed.</p> <p>The outdoor area has been improved to provide a more effective resource for developing aspects of knowledge and understanding of the world such as exploring the features of plants and flowers and observing their growth. Opportunities have been provided for children to find out how things work. The wall space is now used effectively to display the children's work and to accomodate displays with a specifice learning focus. However, there has been little progress with the provision of opportunities for children to use balancing and climbing apparatus as the group have had difficulties in providing climbing equipment.</p>

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Personal, social and emotional development is very good and is given high priority within the group. Children confidently express their needs and ideas, relate well to each other and to adults. Children demonstrate personal independence and have lots of opportunities to respond to cultural events.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are making very good progress in communication, language and literacy. Children engage easily in conversations with other children and adults, they enjoy looking at books and listening to stories. Staff extend children's learning by introducing new vocabulary linked to the theme.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's mathematical development is very good. Staff use both planned and spontaneous opportunities to count with the children in everyday, practical activities. They learn about size and patterns through a good range of games and activities and they enjoy number rhymes.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Very good progress is being made in children's knowledge and understanding of the world. Children have many opportunities to use their senses to explore and investigate. Features of the local environment are looked at and similarities and differences are recorded when looking at the changes in the weather. Children discuss their families, past, present and future events and diversity is reflected throughout the group.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's physical development is very good. Children are skilful users of a wide variety of tools and equipment which are freely accessible to them. Children move confidently and safely and they are developing manipulative skills with the regular use of pencils and pens. The children learn about the importance of hygiene and why they wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. Children's learning could be enhanced further if they had more opportunity to climb and balance.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
<p>Progress in children's creative development is very good. Children have plenty of planned and spontaneous opportunities to explore colour, texture, shape and music. Children have many opportunities to respond to what they see, touch or feel, they recite simple songs in a group situation or individually. Children play imaginatively in the home corner and convincingly take on different roles.</p>	
<p>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</p>	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- provide more opportunities for the children to climb and balance.

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.