



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113530

DfES Number: 549032

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	12/07/2004
Inspector Name	Loraine Wardlaw

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Holy Innocents Playgroup
Setting Address	Church Room Church Lane Southwater West Sussex RH13 9BT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Catherine Walden
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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

Holy Innocents playgroup was first established in 1970, the current provider has owned the playgroup since July 2000. It operates from the church hall, which is located within the village of Southwater.

The group serve the local community and surrounding areas. There are currently 39 children from two to five years on roll. This includes 18 funded three year olds and 18 four year olds. The playgroup supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The playgroup offers sessional care during the school term. It opens five mornings in the autumn term and an additional two afternoons in the spring and summer terms for the benefit of four year olds. Sessions are from 9.15- 12:15 and from 13.00- 16:00. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The owner is the lead practitioner and employs six part-time staff to work with the children. Three staff have early years qualifications to National Vocational level two or above.

How good is the Day Care?

Holy Innocents playgroup provides a good standard of care for children. The playgroup is well managed, and offers a rich environment where children can explore and play happily. Records are up-to date and good policies and procedures ensure the smooth running of the group, although some do not include sufficient detail.

Staff put a high emphasis on ensuring that children are safe and well-cared for. Close attention to detail ensure that staff are good at promoting children's health. Staff value children's individuality and have a professional approach to meeting their needs.

The playgroup offers a good range of toys for children to use and plan exciting activities to aid their development. Staff interact positively with children and form

good relationships with them.

The nursery are successful in promoting a good partnership with parents and carers. Staff involve parents in the children's learning and keep them fully informed of their child's care .

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- The manager successfully organises the playgroup which is welcoming with children's work displayed. Staff are well deployed and offer an excellent choice of play experiences which are set out, both indoors and outdoors ,effectively using the whole environment.
- A good selection of toys, books and materials are available for children. Staff use their skills to make a wide range visual aids to support the rhymes sung by children. These excellent props capture and sustain the children's interest during large group time.
- A varied, comprehensive and healthy range of snacks are offered to children throughout the week. For example peppers, cucumber, naan bread. Water is available for children to easily access and this is prompted by staff in hot weather. All staff hold the food hygiene certificate.
- Staff are very vigilant about child safety. A very good system is in place for the collection of children, head counts are regularly made by staff, and staff take steps to make hazardous areas safe. Annual risk assessments take place and all staff have attended safety training.
- The group are active in promoting good health and hygiene practices. Staff wwear gloves when dealing with accidents and children regularly wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet.
- Staff understand the equal opportunities policy and put it into practice well by ensuring that all children feel included and valued. The manager practices equal opportunities in her induction of new staff.

What needs to be improved?

- the documentation relating to complaints and child protection.

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
12	ensure the complaints procedure includes the contact details of Ofsted
13	ensure child protection policy includes procedure to be followed should an allegation be made against a staff member.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Holy Innocents playgroup is acceptable and of good quality. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals in personal, social, emotional and physical development. In the other four areas of the curriculum children are making very good progress.

The quality of teaching overall is generally good with some very good aspects. The majority of staff are secure in their knowledge and understanding of the stepping stones and early learning goals, which results in good learning opportunities. Staff know the children well and are able to set appropriate challenges for them. They capture children's interest by providing exciting activities and interact with them enthusiastically. The assessment system is very good and implemented well by staff. The manager is knowledgeable and experienced in caring and supporting children with special educational needs. The staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and offer lots of praise and encouragement to them. The structured routine after free flow time involves children sitting for a long period, during adult directed, whole group activities. This impacts on the children's learning and results in some children becoming distracted.

Leadership and management is generally good. The owner and manager is an excellent role model to her staff; she has very good leadership qualities and is a skilled practitioner.

She encourages team work, training and builds on staff strengths. The curriculum is regularly monitored but the group are not always able to identify their weaknesses with regards to the routine of the session. The playgroup have good links with local schools.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. The playgroup operate an 'open door' policy whereby parents feel comfortable talking to staff about their child's needs and developmental progress. Parents are actively involved in the group and are kept updated through the regular, detailed newsletters which are sent out.

What is being done well?

- Staff create a stimulating environment both inside and outside. Children learn through a wide range of practical activities and sensory experiences such as playing with cooked spaghetti and dried rice.
- Children's communication language and literacy development is very good. Staff question children effectively, encouraging them to think and contribute their own ideas. Older children learn to read their name and link sounds to letters and words, through the discussion of objects.
- Children's mathematical development is very good. Staff use their skills in

this area of teaching to present children with simple number problems in activities and routines. Children regularly use mathematical language in their play.

- The programme for creative development is very good. Children talk through their imaginative ideas during role play in the airport café, and make intuitive comments when listening to different types of music.
- Curriculum planning is very good with all six areas and all aspects being covered and implemented well. Detailed adult directed activities includes extension activities for children and evaluation notes. Coded, laminated stepping stones sheets are used by staff to enable them to move children on to the next stages of their learning.
- The setting builds a very strong partnership with parents. Staff are friendly, communicate well with parents and together they share in the children's achievement records. Parents become involved in the children's learning by attending the malleable materials workshop or by talking about their hobbies; such as the father who came in to show the children his diving outfit.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● the organisation of the session after free flow time● the opportunities for children to climb and balance.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are well motivated and excited learners during free-flow time. They are developing in confidence and self esteem; they are proud of their achievements and initiate interactions with others. Children build good relationships, play co-operatively and are helpful to one another. They are well-behaved. Children develop good personal independence by attending to their own physical needs. Children become restless and distracted when asked to sit for pro-longed adult directed activities.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are confident communicators; they initiate conversations with others, often asking questions. They are able to contribute their ideas and feelings. Four year olds are linking sounds to words and all children enjoy rhyming activities. Children handle books with interest and enthusiasm. They practice emergent writing in a variety of play situations. Some children form their letters correctly.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children confidently recognise numerals and count during practical maths activities. They are developing an understanding of simple number problems, by well planned activities and visual aids which support number rhymes. Children use positional language, can describe weight and size. They complete varying grades of puzzles.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use a wide range of resources to explore and investigate for example they wash doll's clothes, play with rice and containers. They build and construct with a variety of toys often drawing upon their own experiences. Children use every day technology in their play; they take photos using the camera and work the toaster in the café. They talk about past and future events and take part in growing projects such as growing cress. Children learn about their local community and other cultures.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children use trikes confidently, stopping and starting at the traffic lights. They are developing spatial awareness. Children have excellent opportunities to take care of their own physical needs. They handle a good variety of malleable materials and tools. Children use a range of small, outdoor equipment, such as bats, balls and visit the local park. Opportunities within the group, for children to balance and climb are limited due to lack of storage for large equipment.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have frequent opportunities to explore media and materials. They paint with brushes, sponges and use collage materials. They are enthusiastic singers of rhymes and take part in musical activities. Children use their imaginations well during role play in the airport café, in art and small worlds play. They have many opportunities to use all their senses for example at snack time, when they eat naan bread, using a feely bag or playing with the spaghetti.	

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

- ensure the routine after free flow time allows children to continue to be motivated to learn
- increase opportunities for 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.