



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109732

DfES Number: 524096

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	01/07/2003
Inspector Name	Sylvia Dindar

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Brockenhurst Playgroup
Setting Address	Village Hall Highwood Road Brockenhurst Hampshire SO42 7RY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of BROCKENHURST PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	BROCKENHURST PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE
Address	U/A U/A

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

Brockenhurst Playgroup opened in approximately 1968. It operates from one room at the local village hall in Brockenhurst. The playgroup serves the local area.

It is registered for twenty six children aged from two years to five years. There are currently forty seven children aged from two years to five years on the roll. There are no funded three year olds, but there are twenty-one funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. One child has special needs and the group supports three children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 12:00.

It is a voluntary group supported by a parent committee.

How good is the Day Care?

Brockenhurst Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children

It provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and their parents. Staff work well as a team, although pre-school policies are not always put into practice. There are action plans in place to increase the number of suitably qualified staff.

The group has addressed most safety issues. All visitors to the group are monitored, evacuation procedure have been implemented and staff are familiar with Child Protection procedures. There are a high number of staff holding a first aid qualification. Most of the staff ensure that children's individual dietary needs are met.

Funded children are well supported and offered stimulating play opportunities. Children access a range of toys and resources which challenge stereotyping and value cultural diversity. Staff act as good role models for children and encourage good behaviour.

Parents are made to feel welcome in the group. They know the staff well and are

happy to approach them at any time. They receive a weekly newsletter which keeps them well informed about what is happening in the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The last inspection was a transitional one and this section is not applicable this time round.

What is being done well?

- The group are very aware of the importance of keeping children safe. Doors are made secure and visitors have to ring a bell to gain entrance. All visitors are checked and required to sign the visitors book. Parents identify who will pick up their children and there is a password system in place for this.
- Parents are kept well informed about the group both through daily discussion and information on the notice board. There is a weekly newsletter which informs parents about the week's activities in the group and suggestions are made as to how parents can support their child's learning at home.

What needs to be improved?

- an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare (Standard 2);
- the risk assessment (Standard 6);
- hygiene practices (Standard 7);
- the ability of staff to deal with individual dietary requirements (Standard 8).

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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
2	develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare (Standard 2)
6	conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks both inside and outside the building (Standard 6)
7	ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding the cleanliness of the toilets in accordance with the pre-school policy (Standard 7)
8	ensure that all staff are aware of, and are able to deal with, children's individual dietary requirements (Standard 8)

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Brockenhurst Playgroup provides a welcoming and friendly environment. Children enjoy learning and make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff know the children well. They are supportive and sensitive to their needs, which helps develop children's confidence. Good behaviour is valued and encouraged. Plans ensure that the curriculum is well balanced and the resources needed for activities are set out. Staff sometimes miss opportunities to use the home language of children who have English as an additional language. The provision for special educational needs is good. Staff work in partnership with parents to ensure most children are fully included.

Leadership and management of the playgroup is generally good. The management and staff are committed to improvement and work well together as a team. They have identified areas that need attention and devised a plan to address the issues, including further training for staff.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents find staff are approachable and easy to talk to. The playgroup produces a weekly information sheet, which gives parents details about themes, activities, learning objectives and how children can be helped to learn at home. Other information is displayed on the notice board and distributed through newsletters. Parents are provided with mini progress reports half yearly.

What is being done well?

- Children are confident and sociable. They have good relationships with each other and with staff.
- Good outdoor facilities enable children to enjoy large scale physical movement, practise co-ordination, control and to take exercise.
- Staff are sensitive and supportive to children's needs, encouraging them in their efforts.
- Staff provide an imaginative range of practical activities to help children learn through their play.
- Staff are very committed to improvement and work well together as a team.
- The strong partnership with parents enables parents to be involved in their children's learning, and ensures they are well informed about the provision.

What needs to be improved?

- presentation and management of role play, to enable children to develop their

imagination and become fully involved;

- staff's assessment of where children are in their learning, so that they can help them to move them on to the next stage;
- the organisation of group story time, to give children more space and more opportunity to participate;
- planning of art and craft activities, to encourage creativity;
- the use of the home language of children who have English as an additional language, so that their developing use of English and other languages supports one another.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The group has made significant progress towards addressing the key issues raised at the last inspection, although there are still some areas that have not been addressed.

They were asked to find ways of providing regular access to dressing up clothes, musical instruments and technology such as tape recorders, and programmable toys.

A selection of dressing up clothes (including cultural costumes) is available and the collection is growing. Some is displayed well, but the rack is not large enough.

A variety of musical instruments traditional to different cultures is also available on a regular basis. Their use is encouraged in music sessions as well as during free play. Children enjoy playing them and listening to the different sounds, which helps them to express themselves in different ways. Children record their own voices and play music on a tape recorder.

The group was asked to develop the records of assessment to provide the opportunity to record what the child needs to learn next.

An extra sheet of further goals added to the final assessment records was planned.

An extra section "things to aim for next" was added to the final progress report, but this has not been used.

Mini progress reports are now given to parents half yearly.

The group is changing the methods it uses for assessment starting in September. They are aware that staff need more training in this area and are putting plans in place to rectify this.

The group was asked to consider the benefits of providing more detail for parents in the prospectus, with particular regard to the education provision and its effect on the desirable learning outcomes.

This has been achieved and there is now a section in the prospectus giving more

information about early learning goals and education provision. Information about funding is clearly displayed on the notice board, and details of times and visits to Brockenhurst Primary School are sent out in a letter.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children make generally good progress in personal, social and emotional development. They build good relationships with each other and adults. They are confident and interested in learning. Although children are becoming independent in managing personal hygiene and hand washing, they do not often have opportunities to develop independence at snack time.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children make generally good progress in communication, language and literacy. They are confident to talk to each other and to speak out in groups. Children enjoy making marks in books to represent money or items in role play, and many can recognise and write their own names. Staff sound out letters, and name letters and children know most of the sounds and names. However in story time the group is too large for all children to become fully involved.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children make generally good progress in mathematics. They are competent in counting, sequencing and recognising numbers. Staff plan interesting activities to practise and consolidate number work. Children enjoy geometric puzzles and large block play which helps them to learn about shape and space. However children do not often use numbers to solve practical problems.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children make generally good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world. They are curious and interested in investigating different materials, objects, and living things. They find out about the wider world through practical activities, books and outings. There is not always enough choice for children in construction or joining techniques.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children make generally good progress in physical development. They enjoy outdoor play, exercise, and large scale physical movement in the enclosed playground. Children move with good co-ordination and control. They demonstrate skills in handling tools, felt pens, paint brushes and threading games.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
Children's progress in creative development has significant weaknesses. Children enjoy exploring colour, texture and shape in practical activities. They play musical instruments and sing songs, often from memory. Children enjoy a wide range of creative craft activities, but these are often designed by the staff. The layout of some resources limits freedom of choice. Children act out scenarios in role play, but staff do not often participate to support imagination.	
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 the role play settings, including a greater level of staff participation;
- plan more opportunities in art and craft for children to construct and select resources for their own purpose;
- re-organise the grouping of children for story time to allow them more space and opportunities to participate;
- continue to develop observations and assessments, so that planning can be used to help children make progress in their learning.
- use the home language of children who have English as an additional language.

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.