



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315991

DfES Number: 534260

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/01/2005
Inspector Name	Susan, Helen Spencer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Egerton Playgroup
Setting Address	Cox Green Road Egerton Bolton Lancashire BL7 9RE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Egerton Out of School Club Limited 3325990 1064696
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Egerton Out of School Club Limited
Address	14 Fossgill Avenue Bolton Lancashire BL2 3FR

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

Egerton Out of School Club and Egerton Village Playgroup are situated in a single storey purpose built building adjoining a primary school in the Egerton area of Bolton. The group has been in the present building since 1998 and is registered to care for 24 pre-school children and 40 children before and after school. Parking is available nearby, although the school car park is used in the evenings and holidays. A local bus service is nearby, shops and a park are within walking distance. A large play area, quiet room and wet play area are available to the playgroup. In addition, the school hall is used for the out of school club and holiday care. There is disabled access available via school and double door entry into facility. There are adequate toilet facilities including a disabled toilet. There are 29 children at present aged three years who access funded places. Links are made with the teachers from the Early Years Partnership and staff from the facility attend the cluster meeting groups termly. Eleven staff are employed for playgroup and out of school club and all carry or are working towards relevant qualifications for the post they hold. The playgroup operates during term time offering sessional or full day care on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 09.15 to 15.15. The before and after school club runs daily from 07.30 to 09.00 and 15.30 to 18.00. The holiday club runs Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 18.00. Mothers and Toddlers group operates on Tuesdays from 09.15 to 11.00.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Egerton Playgroup provides a stimulating, welcoming environment and offers high quality education for three and four-year-old children. They are making very good progress in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a secure knowledge of all areas of children's learning. Planning is conscientiously completed and highlights the learning intentions of each of the provided activities. These activities are clearly based on the children's previous learning and so offer experiences well matched to each child's stage of development. Staff are enthusiastic and work well as a team using a good range of resources to ensure interesting and varied activities. Staff's interactions with children are very effective and their warm relationships with children promote well the children's confidence, independence and social skills. They have high expectations of children's behaviour and are good role models, using praise and encouragement very effectively. Assessments of the children's progress are conscientiously recorded.

The leadership and management are very good. Staff are well aware of their roles and responsibilities, resulting in the smooth running of each session. Annual appraisals are held and there is a strong commitment to staff training and development. Monitoring and evaluation is an ongoing process, as all constantly strive to improve continually the care and education of the children.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are fully informed about the playgroup's routines, practices, planned curriculum and activities. Staff are friendly, listen to parents' views, wishes and happily share information about the children's development. All parents have access to their child's development file and are invited to parents' meetings.

What is being done well?

- Children are happy, confident and very well behaved. They form good relationships with staff and their peers, they take turns, share, care and are considerate to each other.
- Staff understand how children learn, hence they interact well with the children, listen, support, question and very successfully encourage the children's curiosity and eagerness to learn.
- Lots of practical activities help develop the children's counting skills and their recognition of shapes.
- Children love stories and maintain attention well at story time, eagerly anticipating what might happen next.
- Children delight in exploring colours and textures, enjoy designing and

constructing structures, enthusiastically engage in role play and gleefully sing songs and rhymes, accompanying them with actions and musical instruments.

What needs to be improved?

- more frequent opportunities to use climbing equipment
- the attractiveness of the book corner.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The improvements made in response to the key issues raised in the last inspection have been very good.

The first key issue asked the playgroup to provide information to parents on the six areas of learning and the activities children experience on a day-to-day basis. Details of the areas of learning are now made available to all parents, whilst the daily planned activities are systematically displayed.

The playgroup was also asked to provide a more formal exchange of information about the children's progress and achievement. It has now made it possible for parents to have access to their child's records, in addition to holding parents' evenings.

The final key issue asked the playgroup to provide opportunities for parents to work alongside their children in the playgroup. Newsletters to parents indicate the playgroup is keen for parents to share their skills with the children, to help on visits and outings, and to stay with their children when they first attend the playgroup to help them settle.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's independence is fostered well. They are happy, confident, enthusiastic, eager learners who are keen to explore activities, and often persist in order to achieve success. Children are able to sit quietly and listen. They are well behaved and have a good understanding of what is right or wrong. All show good respect for the environment and each other as they tidy away, share and take turns.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are encouraged to express their needs, talk about themselves and listen to others. They enjoy listening to stories and are keen to join in and share their ideas. They know print carries meaning, and when encouraged they enjoy looking at books. Some recognise letters by sound and shape, and many are keen mark makers, while others are starting to write their own names.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are developing their counting skills and are starting to recognise numerals. They happily count to five and some count confidently to ten and beyond. They use songs, rhymes and practical activities to solve simple problems and to develop their concept of adding on and taking away. Children recognise shapes such as circles, squares, triangles and rectangles, and use size and positional language confidently, while many are able to sort by size, shape and colour.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children talk freely and confidently about their family, friends and home. They are able to differentiate between past and present. They talk confidently about the days of the week, and the frequent changes in the weather and its effect on the environment. All enjoy using the computer and a selection of technological toys. Many eagerly design and assemble construction materials and equipment to make a range of interesting structures, and are keen to explore and investigate how things work.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show increasing dexterity in their use of small tools, equipment and malleable materials. They thoroughly enjoy action songs, moving with growing co-ordination. Indoors they enjoy balancing on benches and stepping stones, although their opportunities for using climbing equipment are less frequent. When outdoors they move freely with both pleasure and confidence, whilst developing their awareness of space as they run, jump through hoops and throw, catch, kick and chase balls.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have a good repertoire of songs and rhymes, singing from memory and joining in actions with great enthusiasm. They enjoy exploring sounds as they delight in playing a range of musical instruments. Children enjoy exploring colour during painting activities, and eagerly investigate textures, for example as they mix and manipulate cornflour and water. All enjoy participating in role play, drawing well on their own experiences and using the props available well to act out situations.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

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:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to providing the following:
- more frequent opportunities to use climbing equipment and the provision of a more inviting book corner.

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.