



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 205553

DfES Number: 582246

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/04/2004
Inspector Name	Kathryn Margaret Clayton

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Avenue Playgroup
Setting Address	St Andrews Youth Hall Charles Street Cleethorpes North East Lincolnshire DN35 8QB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Avenue Playgroup 1041453
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Avenue Playgroup
Address	St Andrews Youth Hall Charles Street Cleethorpes North East Lincolnshire DN35 8QB

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

The Avenue Playgroup operates from St Andrews Youth Hall. It is run by a voluntary management committee and is registered to provide care for twenty-four children aged from two to five. Children attending come from the local community. The playgroup is situated not far from the sea front in Cleethorpes.

There are currently twenty-three children on roll, including ten in receipt of educational funding. Children with Special Educational Needs also attend the setting. The playgroup opens from 09:30 to 12:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and from 12.45 to 15.15 on Wednesday afternoon, during term time only. The playgroup has sole use of a large hall whilst in operation. There is no outdoor play space attached to the building. Seven part-time staff are employed at the setting. The playgroup receives the support of the North East Lincolnshire Early Years Service.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The Avenue playgroup offers a welcoming environment where children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Progress made in creative and physical development and knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. Children make generally good progress in personal, social and emotional development, mathematical development and communication, language and literacy.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff are enthusiastic and develop trusting relationships with children. They have a suitable knowledge of the foundation stage curriculum over the staff group, and plan a clear, well-organised programme of activities that systematically ensures coverage of the stepping stones over time. Sessions are well paced, with a good balance of active and directed learning. Staff have a good knowledge of individual children and effectively assess and record the progress they make. There are some missed opportunities for staff to extend children's learning, leading to some minor weaknesses in the progress made in personal, social and emotional development, mathematical development and communication language and literacy.

The leadership and management is generally good. The group work very well as a team and have clearly identified aims. Management effectively evaluate most areas for development in the provision for nursery education. Management work well with support agencies and have a commitment to ongoing improvement. The necessary paperwork to help to support children with Special Educational Needs is not yet in place.

The partnership with parents is very good. Staff develop good relationships with parents who are given good quality information about the setting, including useful information about the foundation stage curriculum. Parents are well- informed about their children's progress through daily information sharing and reading the individual progress records.

What is being done well?

- Very good, supportive team work is apparent. Staff are friendly and enthusiastic. This helps children to settle easily and feel happy when attending the sessions.
- Staff develop good relationships with parents. Parents are welcomed into the group and can stay should they wish to. Staff take time to talk to parents and make sure they are aware that they can approach them for information about their child's progress.
- Staff plan many opportunities for children to learn about their local environment and community, for example visits from fire-fighters and

crossing people, walks to the local library, visits to a local farm, and occasional walks to the beach.

- Children enjoy singing familiar songs and have many planned opportunities to explore sounds, when using and making their own musical instruments.
- Children behave very well, and staff manage minor instances of inappropriate behaviour very well.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for children to learn and use simple mathematical language in play
- the involvement and sustained interests of children in activities
- the opportunities for children to talk through and explain what they are doing

What has improved since the last inspection?

Generally good progress has been made since the last inspection. Upper and lower case letters are now used appropriately on name cards. Planning is now clear, well organised, linked to the stepping stones and ensures children work towards the early learning goals, although the planning for children who learn at different rates is not always considered.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children come confidently into the playgroup and independently select from a good range of activities, for example, making models, painting, water play, construction, role play and completing puzzles. They develop good relationships with staff who they approach easily to make them aware of their needs. Many children behave very well, although they are not always fully involved in activities and do not often sustain interest for extended periods.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Many children listen and respond well to simple instructions. They are introduced to new vocabulary when eating fruits at snack time. All children enjoy and join in appropriately with songs and rhymes at circle time. They show an interest in books and handle books correctly, and use a range of tools and mark making equipment with increasing control. Many children do not explain or talk about what they are doing and they are not always sufficiently encouraged to do so.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children all enjoy and are learning about simple number problems when singing number rhymes, for example, five fat sausages and five little leaves. Many children sort transport items by colour correctly. They have many planned opportunities to learn about shapes and pattern when printing, model making, constructing with duplo and completing puzzles. Children are not always sufficiently encouraged to use simple mathematical language in play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children learn about living things, explore and notice changes when planting cress, grass and flower seeds, and through occasional visits to the beach and the local farm. Children select appropriate resources and carefully construct design and make cars and robots with re-cycled materials. Children are interested in, for example, the laptop computer which they use with increasing skill. They learn about the lives of people who help them when fire-fighters and the crossing lady visit the group.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Many children move confidently and negotiate space well indoors. They have planned opportunities to move to music and play ring games. They are becoming aware of healthy eating when, for example, eating fruit at snack time. They take part in a planned programme of activities using small equipment and are developing increasing skill using large equipment. Children are developing good co-ordination when using tools and malleable materials.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children enjoy singing familiar songs and have many planned opportunities to explore sounds, for example, when making their own musical instruments. They effectively explore colour, shape and form working in two and three dimensions, when drawing, painting, completing collages and making large and small models. Children are familiar with using and access a good range of resources easily. They are encouraged to explore their feelings, when listening to appropriate stories.	

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

- consider ways to improve children's involvement and sustained interest in activities
- provide more opportunities and encouragement for children to talk activities through and explain what they are doing.

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.