



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 309462

DfES Number: 517928

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	24/11/2004
Inspector Name	Denise Sixsmith

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	St Annes RC School Playgroup
Setting Address	St. Annes RC Primary School Aughton Street Ormskirk Lancashire L39 3LQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St Anne's Catholic School Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St Anne's Catholic School Playgroup
Address	St Anne's R.C School Aughton Street Ormskirk Lancashire L39 3LQ

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

St Annes R.C. School Playgroup opened in 1992. It operates from one room in a purpose built building situated in the school grounds. The group is self contained and has its own adjacent outdoor area as well as use of the school grounds and hall. The group is located close to Ormskirk town centre and serves the local area as the children tend to proceed into the school.

There are currently 46 children from 3 to 5 years on role. This includes 40 funded 3 year olds and 6 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group has systems in place to support children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 08:55 until 15:25.

Four staff work with the children 3 of which are full time. Three of the staff have early year qualifications to a high level and one staff is working towards an NVQ level 2 qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Sure Start Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. the group is a member of the Pre School Learning Alliance and completed their accreditation scheme in 2002. The group also holds Lead Practitioner status with Sure Start EYDCP.

How good is the Day Care?

St Annes R.C. School Playgroup provides good care for children.

The established management and staff team work well together to ensure the group runs smoothly. The qualified and skilled staff have a good commitment to self development. They regularly attend courses which keep them up to date with current practice. The majority of required documentation is in place is readily available and produced to a high standard. The space and resources are used very well to help the children to be settled and happy.

Good safety and hygiene procedures are in place and staff are vigilant in reducing risks. They have a satisfactory awareness of child protection issues and maintain current first aid certificates. The group subscribes to a healthy eating policy and although children eat in a social setting with staff more attention is required to the table setting. Children are encouraged to observe good hygiene as part of their developing independence

The children benefit from a stimulating, rich range of play activities which provides them with the opportunity to initiate ideas. They have a choice about what they do within a well planned structure. Children can access the high quality range of toys and resources easily. Staff and children have positive relationships with good behaviour being valued and children's self esteem fostered very effectively through praise and support. Staff are patient, calm and caring towards the children and place an emphasis on fun. Children are respected as individuals and staff meet their needs very well.

Partnership with parents is good a welcoming environment is in place for both parents and children. Staff share information daily about the settings activities and the children's welfare. They take the time to find out parent's views and share information about policies and activities. Parents speak highly of the provision and the development their children are making and value the friendly approach of the staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff's commitment to detail in ensuring that a stimulating, caring environment is provided for the children. They provide positive caring role models with hugs and encouragement being readily provided for the children throughout the day. The children are provided with the opportunity to take responsibility through daily routines to help and assist others, enabling them to develop a caring attitude and work very well together.
- The staff and children's good relationship that is built on trust. Good behaviour is valued and children's self esteem fostered effectively by staff through praise and support.
- The manager's clear knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the group. This is maintained through the ongoing assessment and development that is in place to ensure that the aim of the group to provide a high quality service is met.
- The good quality and range of toys and activities provided for the children that enable them to learn and develop in a bright and inviting environment where their creative work is displayed very well.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation to ensure that parental consent is obtained for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment and their signatures are obtained when medication has been administered
- system for recording incidents of physical intervention
- table settings at meal times.

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
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and ensure parents signatures are obtained on the record of medication administered.
8	Ensure arrangements are in place for providing suitable plates at mealtimes.
14	Devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical intervention.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

St Annes RC School Playgroup provides high quality education. The children are making very good progress in all areas of learning, through a range of stimulating, well planned activities.

Staff have a clear knowledge of the foundation stage and their effective planning of an interesting, stimulating and appropriate range of practical activities help children to make very good progress. A thorough assessment system is used well to record children's progress. Staff make use of the information gained to adapt the planned activities to provide sufficient challenge for the children. Children behave very well in response to the high expectations and sensitive support of staff. The group has a very good range of equipment which staff use well to support children's learning. Staff help children with special educational needs and an effective system is in place to provide good support. Staff have a very good relationship with the children. They provide appropriate role models and foster children's self esteem very well in a relaxed yet structured environment.

Leadership and management is very good. There is a commitment to improving the quality of the nursery for the children through raising the standard of the learning and care provided for each individual child. Staff meetings and access to regular training effectively contribute to the staff's professional development. Strong team work, regular reviewing and assessment, linked with a view towards the future results in a very positive and successful service.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with good quality information about the nursery and the development of their children. They are highly supportive of the nursery and feel well informed about their children's progress through regular newsletters, open events and daily informal contact with the staff. Parents actively contribute and share their observations about their children's learning and development with the staff.

What is being done well?

- Staff's attention to children's personal, social and emotional development. Resulting in children knowing about being kind and helpful to each other. They readily tidy up and help staff to clean the tables. Children inform staff that the door hanging is broken and find a solution to mending it. They then carry out this successfully.
- Children are developing very good control of themselves and listen attentively to staff and others. They play the musical instruments with gusto but put them down on queue and leave them in place, while they engage in a short alternate activity, then return them to storage.
- Children are very eager to learn and engage in new activities. They use their

imaginations very well when going into space and engaging in domestic play in Grandma's cottage incorporating dressing up and lots of language development and cooperation.

- Staff produce very good detailed plans which are linked very effectively with assessment that informs future plans. Staff provide good opportunities for children to consolidate new learning through the ongoing continuous provision. Children match socks on the washing line in the domestic play, this continues to reinforce learning in the previous topic, Shoes and Socks.

What needs to be improved?

- outside play area to enable children to work on a larger more active scale than is possible indoors.

What has improved since the last inspection?

It was agreed at the last inspection that the group would continue to develop the assessment and record keeping system. This has been addressed very effectively with very good records and assessment of children's development being in place ensuring that the children make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Opportunity for older children to learn a range of initial letter sounds was to be provided. This has been addressed well. A hanging container with pocket has been provided with letters of the alphabet displayed in which children's names are deposited and retrieved. This is one of a variety of planned activities with staff and children sounding out the letter sounds.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing a very positive attitude to learning and are developing self confidence and self esteem through the opportunities for choice and responsibility provided for them by staff. Behaviour is extremely good with lots of happy smiling faces and confident children. Children take turns and cooperate together very well. They negotiate usage of resources and eagerly offer to help to mend things, in particular the decorative door hanging. They have a pride in their achievements.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children speak, listen and represent their ideas through the activities provided very well. They have a very good understanding of different types of books and how to look for information. A child outlined a journey using the atlas in the role play area. Children confidently mark make, writing post cards to family during their trip to the moon, making lists and maps for the journey. They listen attentively to stories eagerly joining in to add the next phrase or new sounds.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count with confidence relating the number 5 to 5 fingers. They count up to 21 at registration then to 23 as more children arrive. Children are developing a very good understanding of calculation through the rocket blast off activity. They are confidently using mathematical vocabulary in everyday activities 'smaller' and 'bigger' than. Children sort very well when tidying up and concentrate well to match the socks on the washing line.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are develop their knowledge very well through activities based on first hand experiences which encourage exploration, investigation and decision making. Well planned learning opportunities throughout the year enable children to find out about different beliefs and costumes. The children's interest is captured very well in the space topic with children going up to the planets and stars. They consider what they may need and what they may find when they arrive.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently in the room and in larger spaces. There is less challenge available on a more active scale outside. Children enjoy moving different parts of their bodies with increasing control to the music tape inside. They squeal with delight during the parachute game and yet calm down appropriately for the sedate walk back to their room from the playground. Children are developing increasing control in the handling of tools, construction and malleable materials.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have many exciting channels and resources through which to express their creativity. These include varied role play, craft activities, free painting as well as making and listening to music. Children are very enthusiastic to experiment with ideas and bring their own ideas to the activities. They play and produced musical instruments well and construct 3D models of aliens combining a variety of materials. Children sing enthusiastically and visit the sound area regularly.	
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 consideration should be given to improving the following:
- development of the outdoor play to enable children to learn to work on a larger more active scale.

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.