



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 311283

DfES Number: 522420

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/03/2004
Inspector Name	Janet Skippins

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Highburton Playgroup
Setting Address	Burton Village Hall, Northfield Lane Kirkburton Huddersfield West Yorkshire HD8 0QT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Highburton Playgroup
------	---------------------------------------

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Highburton Playgroup
Address	Burton Village Hall Northfield Lane, Kirkburton Huddersfield West Yorkshire HD8 0QT

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

Highburton Playgroup opened in 1996. It operates from a large room in the village hall at Highburton, Huddersfield. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently 44 children on roll. This includes 12 funded three year olds and 18 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions each week.

The playgroup opens five days each week during term time Sessions are from 09:00 to 11:45 each morning and from 13:00 to 15:00 on Thursdays.

Five part time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3. The setting receives support from the local authority.

How good is the Day Care?

Highburton Playgroup provides good quality care for children. The management group and staff provide a very happy, welcoming atmosphere. The staff are very well supported to attend many training courses to keep their knowledge up to date. The playgroup runs smoothly using some very good systems, policies and procedures which are understood by staff. Only one aspect of paperwork requires some minor attention.

The management group and staff ensure that the environment, both indoors and outdoors is very safe for children. They have a good awareness of children's individual needs, including dietary needs, and relate very well to the children. The playgroup is a clean, healthy and hygienic environment and children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practice.

Children benefit from consistent routines for playing and break times. They enjoy an excellent range of stimulating play and learning activities and good resources are presented to encourage easy access. The staff work well as a team to provide a positive approach to managing children's behaviour and children are very well behaved.

Parents are made to feel very welcome to the playgroup. Information regarding their child's development is exchanged verbally on a daily basis. Parents are able access their child's records easily. The notice board, policies and procedures manual and parent's brochure provide good, useful information about the playgroup.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- A high emphasis is placed on making the nursery a welcoming environment both inside and outdoors. Children's work and posters are displayed and toys and equipment are easily available. Children are able to use an outdoor area which includes a garden.
- Management and staff work very well as a team, share a common purpose and are fully involved in planning, evaluating and developing practice. They have worked hard to achieve a quality assurance award.
- Good staff ratios ensure that adults interact very well with children and give them individual attention. Staff know the children well and make very good observational and assessment records which they share with parents.
- Children enjoy a wide variety of planned activities which utilise the many skills of the staff team, they have daily opportunities to listen to guitar music and join in with songs, which include those from other cultures.
- Staff put a high emphasis on children's safety, following good procedures especially when managing outdoor play and outings.
- Children behave very well, are well mannered and show respect to each other.
- Children's dietary needs are well met and they are able to help themselves to drinking water throughout the session.
- Parents are made to feel very welcome and valued, both as regular helpers and management group members.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The staff, children and management group of the playgroup have worked together with students from the local high school to create a garden in the outdoor area. It provides a wealth of exciting, imaginative learning opportunities for children. They can explore the natural world by growing seeds, plants and vegetables and discovering insects (Standard 3).

What needs to be improved?

- the information for parents regarding the roles of Ofsted and the local authority.

Outcome of the inspection

Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
--

<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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	Improve the complaints and compliments procedure by providing clear information regarding the role of Ofsted as the regulator and the Local Authority.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Highburton Playgroup provides a welcoming atmosphere where children settle well so that they make very good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning. Good use is made of space enabling children to be grouped so that they are able to learn effectively. The presentation of resources encourages children to explore and investigate a wide range of activities. Children are provided with a purposeful and challenging environment.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff are very enthusiastic and work well together to plan an interesting, stimulating curriculum. Staff are well motivated which has a positive impact on the children's learning. They are good role models and manage behaviour very well. Effective interaction with the children results in the children being successfully encouraged to develop their independence, imagination, early mark making skills and understanding of numbers. Planning is well organised to cover all areas of learning successfully and ensures sessions run smoothly. Detailed assessments for all children are regularly completed by staff and used effectively to inform future planning.

The leadership and management is very good. The management group are committed to improving the service offered. Good systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery education, setting and staff. There are many opportunities for staff to attend training and this is supported well by management. There are good support systems for children with special needs and those who have English as an additional language, though none attend at present.

Partnership with parents is very good. They are welcomed into the playgroup as regular helpers and on to the management group. Parents have access to well detailed policy documents containing information about the playgroup and the Foundation Stage of their child's learning. However, the information brochure does not include information about the Foundation Stage.

What is being done well?

- Staff and management work hard and are able to address their strengths and weaknesses to ensure that children are able to reach their full potential within the early learning goals before they leave the nursery.
- Staff give high priority to nurturing children's personal, social and emotional development.
- Relationships are very good and behaviour is of a high standard.
- Children are given regular opportunities to practice their writing skills and develop their knowledge of letter sounds.
- Practical everyday activities are used extremely well to help children use their

developing knowledge of numbers to solve simple mathematical problems.

- Staff effectively help the children become more aware of the environment and the natural world, for example they provide many first hand experiences such as gardening and nature walks.
- A good range of activities and resources ensure that three and four year old children make very good progress in their physical development.
- Children explore a range of creative materials and are encouraged to experiment with colours and textures.

What needs to be improved?

- the information for parents regarding the Foundation Stage of their children's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The last inspection highlighted one key issue, this was to ensure that the planning of short term activities showed clearly what the children were expected to learn. The playgroup staff have changed the way they do their short term planning to ensure that this is clearly linked to the stepping stones. Short term plans now show what the children are expected to learn very clearly.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Three year old children have a positive attitude to learning and display high levels of involvement in the activities. Four year old children are able to maintain attention, concentrate and sit quietly both individually and in group situations. All children respond positively to staff, respect each other and develop very good social skills. They feel secure, happy and well motivated to learn. Children demonstrate their increasing independence, for example, by selecting resources for themselves.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children's language is developing well and they speak with confidence to peers and adults. They respond well to challenging questions from adults. Children listen well and are able to follow simple instructions such as being asked wash their hands at certain times of the day. They eagerly participate in stories and know how to use books for enjoyment as well as to locate information. Children can identify their own names, for example on coat pegs and cups.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Many children can count a small number of items accurately with increasing confidence. Some four year old children can demonstrate that they understand simple addition and subtraction calculations, for example, when taking part in a planting activity. Most children use language to describe shape and size, they talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns. All children enjoy joining in with simple number rhymes and activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children develop a very good understanding of nature and living things through going on walks and taking part in well planned activities. They select and use tools with construction resources independently and can build models well. They learn about the traditions and cultures of others by learning simple words and songs in various languages. Children develop their technological skills by competently using simple computer programmes.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

A very good range of interesting and stimulating activities and experiences offers children good physical challenges. They move confidently and safely with increasing control and co-ordination. Three year olds persevere in repeating actions such as cutting. There are many opportunities for children to develop hand to eye co-ordination resulting in all children being able to pour drinks with control. Many well planned activities help children to learn about the importance of staying healthy.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children very eagerly explore colour, texture, shape, form and space using a wide variety of materials and tools which are provided at their level. They use their senses well, for example, when in the garden noticing how plants feel to touch. They are able to explore sound using musical instruments and enjoy singing simple songs from memory. Children confidently express their feelings by acting out narratives imaginatively in the role play area.	

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:

- a point for consideration is to provide more information for parents regarding the Foundation Stage of their children's learning.

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.