



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 118587

DfES Number: 521484

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	21/01/2004
Inspector Name	Caroline Preston

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Romford United Reformed Church Playgroup
Setting Address	United Reformed Church 58 / 60 Western Road Romford Essex RM1 3LP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Susan Cole, Lesley Mariott, Wendy Andreet & Elaine
Address	Romford United Reformed Church Playgroup United Reformed Church 58/60 Western Road Romford, Essex RM1 3LP

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

United Reformed Church Playgroup opened in 1988. It operates from a large room within the church, very close to Central Romford and local resources. The playgroup has sole use of the hall whilst in session, the group also have use of the sports hall. There is an outside play area available.

The playgroup is registered to provide sessional care for 26 children aged from two to under five years per session. There are currently 21 children from two years to four years on the roll. This includes 15 funded three year olds and six funded four year olds. The playgroup has experience of supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. No children currently attending the group are learning English as an additional language.

The playgroup is open Monday to Friday 09:15 to 11:45 term time only.

Six staff work in total with the children with a minimum of five at every session. All staff hold an appropriate early years qualification. Staff attend additional training and workshops provided by the local Early Years Development Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Romford United Reformed Church playgroup offers very good quality nursery education, where children enjoy learning through a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities. Effective teaching helps children make very good progress towards the early learning goals.

The teaching is very good and staff demonstrate clear knowledge of how children learn and the early learning goals. They use their knowledge to plan a broad-based curriculum that includes a very good range of challenging and interesting practical activities and experiences.

Staff show positive and skilful management of children's behaviour and have high expectations of behaviour. They use a variety of strategies to encourage good behaviour including plenty of praise, encouragement and act as good role models of positive behaviour. The playgroup has a very good range of equipment which is attractively laid and spaced out, for the children and well.

The assessment of children's learning is very good and staff use their observation to complete individual learning plans. Much of the success of the setting is due to clear leadership, there is a strong commitment to ongoing staff development and improving the nursery education. The partnership with parents is very good. They are provided with very good quality information about the provision and children's progress.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a warm and caring atmosphere which enables children to settle and feel secure and confident in their environment.
- Children handle and explore a good range of natural and made materials, and they are using their senses as they observe, touch, smell, taste a variety of products during cooking activities.
- Leadership and management are strong and help support very good teamwork and a commitment to continuous improvement of the service.

What needs to be improved?

- There are no significant weaknesses, but consideration should be given to improving the following: extending the links between activities that explore basic addition and subtraction.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Staff have made very good improvement since the last inspection. In response to five key issues drawn up in 1999, staff have improved partnership with parents through displaying current topic, inform parents verbally of child's progress, invite parents to look at assessment records, involve parents in extending activities at home.

Extend children's personal and social development by promoting independence skills, through allowing children to help others, support children in caring for their environment.

Improve quality of teaching, through deployment of staff, and encouraging children when necessary. Improve assessment through printing new sessional plan forms. Enhance planning through completing six area box's on sessional plans.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The playgroup provide a positive environment for children to gain confidence and independence. Children are helped to feel secure and positive relations are clearly evident. Their behaviour is very good, supported by firm, but kind consistent expectations from staff. Children are forming good relationships with their peers. There are good multicultural resources and planned activities to support children to understand their own and other cultures.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Staff promote listening skills well and children are attentive when instructions are given. Children enjoy stories, and show very good book handling skills. Children show confidence in writing and practise writing through a range of practical activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's counting skills are developing well and many can count reliably to ten. The children learn to use numbers in practical activities and show an understanding of shape number and size, although missed opportunities to extending the links between addition and subtraction.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Staff plan a range of activities that enable children to develop an awareness of past and present events in their lives. Many opportunities are provided for children to handle and explore a range of different materials through first hand experiences.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently and show competent balance, spatial awareness and co-ordination that is promoted through access to a diverse range of activities and equipment. They show confident and increasing control and skilful use of hand tool, objects, construction equipment and malleable materials.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Staff provide children with many opportunities to explore and experiment with a range of materials of various colour and texture. Children are developing sensory experiences when they touch, smell and taste foods during cooking activities. They are able to express their ideas in painting, and use their imagination well when playing in role play. Children enjoy singing.

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, but consideration should be given to improving the following: extending the links between activities that explore basic addition and subtraction.

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.