



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 137749

DfES Number: 532160

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	13/12/2004
Inspector Name	Deborah Jane Orchard

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	A.B.C. Playgroup
Setting Address	Alperton Baptist Church Ealing Road Wembley Middlesex HA0 4BY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs. Ruth Elizabeth John
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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

ABC Playgroup was established in 1969. It operates from two rooms in a church hall situated on a main road in Alperton. There is a outside play area. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are 65 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 5 funded three year olds and 2 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during term time. Sessions are from 09:30 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 15:00.

11 part time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications and the remaining staff members are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The playgroup is a member of the National Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

ABC playgroup provides satisfactory care for children.

The staff work well as a team to provide a range of activities that are age and developmentally appropriate for the children attending. Children are supported by staff in most areas of their development, however the care needs of children who are not yet toilet trained are not being met.

There is a good selection of age appropriate toys and resources, many of these promote children's early learning experiences and reflect diversity in society. Good use is made of indoor space, however children are not at present grouped in key groups.

The staff interact well with the children and manage the children's behaviour with sensitivity using age appropriate strategies. Staff have a friendly and approachable manner with children and parents.

The staff promote healthy eating within the setting. The staff give attention to safety within the playgroup, however the outdoor play area is not safe. There is a detailed operational plan and all required documentation is in place.

The provider gives staff the opportunity to attend training courses, many of the staff hold appropriate child care qualifications and first aid certificates.

The staff have good relationships with parents and verbally communicate each day, however there is little opportunity for parents to receive information about their child's activities and progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider was asked to address the following areas:

Names should be recoded in full in the accident book.

Record the length of time fire drills take.

Encourage children to use the sinks in the toilet to wash their hands.

Complaints procedure to include Ofsted's telephone number.

All areas have been addressed and necessary documentation is now in place.

What is being done well?

- The environment is warm, welcoming and child focused, staff greet children with warmth and affection.
- The playgroup makes good use of available space and offers a variety of learning experiences for the children.
- The staff are actively involved with the children, many of the children attending speak English as an additional language and staff support the children by speaking to children in their home languages. The children are interested in their activities and happy and contented in the playgroup.
- The staff promote healthy eating within the playgroup by providing the children with a nutritious snack and through posters and discussion. Attention is given to recording and observing individual dietary needs.
- There is a policy for behaviour management, which is successful in practice. Staff praise positive behaviour and encourage children in their daily activities. The staff use a range of appropriate strategies for behaviour management which are sensitive and appropriate to the age and level of understanding of the children attending.

- The staff communicate verbally with parents, and positive written feedback was received from parents.
- All required policies and procedures are in place.

What needs to be improved?

- the grouping of children in key groups with consistent staff and size which does not exceed 26.
- the opportunity for parents to find out what children do.
- the provision of facilities to ensure children's care needs are met.
- the safety of the outside play area.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
3	Ensure the care needs of children are met by staff.	15/01/2005
4	Ensure the garden area is made safe.	15/01/2005

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure children belong to a key group which has consistent staff and that

	the size of each group does not exceed 26.
12	Provide opportunities for parents to find out what children do.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The playgroup provides a generally good educational programme. Children are learning through a balance of planned practical activities.

The quality of teaching is generally good, which promotes children's learning towards four areas of the early learning goals. There are significant weaknesses in the programme for mathematical and physical development. Children have few opportunities to develop their understanding of numbers, matching, calculating and comparing.

There are few opportunities for children to participate in regular out door play activities in order, to develop their large muscle skills, to move with control and co-ordination.

Some staff working with the three and four-year-olds children do not have secure working knowledge of the early learning goals. As a result, children's learning is not fully extended during practical activities.

Children are making generally good progress in the areas of personal, social emotional development communication, language and literacy. They are learning to play co-operately together, to share and to take turns.

Children are making generally good progress in their creative development. They have good opportunities to participate in a wide range of creative activities using a variety of materials.

The leadership and management is generally good. The manager and staff work well as a team. The manager and deputy are actively involved in planning the education programme. However, staff are not actively involved in the planning and evaluating of activities in order to consider children's achievements and areas for development.

Partnership with parents is generally good; they are well informed about the educational programme through newsletters and notices. However, there are few opportunities for parents to become involved in the assessment process, so that their observation of their children's learning at home forms part of this process.

What is being done well?

- Children are well behaved, they respond positively to staff. Staff give clear and consistent guidelines for good behaviour.
- Children are interested to learn and are highly involved in their chosen activities.

- Staff provide good support for children with English as an additional language for example, many staff speak additional languages and dual language books are readily accessible to the children.
- Staff plan stimulating activities to promote children's learning in most areas of the learning goals.

What needs to be improved?

- the strengthening of the programme for mathematical development, by ensuring the children's understanding of numbers, calculating and comparing are fully extending during practical activities.
- the strengthening of the programme for physical development, by ensuring the children have opportunities to participate in regular outdoor play, to develop their large muscle skills.
- the improvement in the opportunities for parents to meet with staff, discuss their children's written achievement reports and to become involved in the assessment process, so that their observation of their children's learning at home forms part of this process.
- the improved opportunities for staff to gain secure working knowledge in the early learning goals and to become involved in the planning and evaluating and of the educational programme.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are forming good relationships with both each other and adults, they behave well and are co-operative during play. Children are confident and are able to sit and listen attentively to stories and during group activities. However, they have limited opportunities to help themselves to their drinks and fruit during snack times.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are developing their reading skills through listening attentively to stories. Children enjoy making marks and practising their writing skills through the well resourced writing area. Children with English as an additional language are well supported by staff, for example some prints are displayed in Tamil and Gujarati. However, children would also benefit from further support in exploring and understanding simple words in English.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children are learning about shapes and colours, through a range of games. They are learning to recreate simple patterns. There are planned opportunities for children to develop their mathematical knowledge and skills. However, children are not encouraged to use the resources in a purposeful way to develop their comparing, calculating and problem solving skills.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children have good opportunities to build and construct with a wide range of objects, to assemble and join materials. Children are learning about the natural world such as growing a range of plant seeds. They use a range of programmable toys to support their learning well. However, children have few opportunities to find out about the past and present events in their own lives and those of their families.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children use many tools and small equipment with increasing control. They are learning well the importance of eating healthy food such as fruits and vegetables. However, children have limited opportunities to participate in regular outdoor play during the colder months. As a result, they have few opportunities to develop their large muscle skills and to move with control and co-ordination.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children enjoy a wide variety of activities, which give them opportunities to explore colour, texture, form and shape. Children are able to express themselves through role-play and painting. They have good opportunities to use their imagination in art, they can stick a range of materials to make their own pictures.	
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

- strengthen the programme for mathematical development, by ensuring that children's understanding of numbers, calculating and comparing are fully extending during practical activities.
- strengthen the programme for physical development, by ensuring that children have opportunities to participate in regular outdoor play to develop their large muscle skills
- improve the opportunities for parents to meet with staff, to discuss their children's written achievement reports and to become involved in the assessment process, so that their observation of their children's learning at home forms part of this process.
- improve the opportunities for staff to gain secure working knowledge in the early learning goals and to become involved in the planning and evaluating and of the educational programme.

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.