



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 317551

DfES Number: 516879

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/02/2004
Inspector Name	Stephen Andrew Blake

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Lindal Playgroup
Setting Address	Buccleuch Hall Lindal Ulverston Cumbria LA12 0LX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Lindal Playgroup 1023666
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Lindal Playgroup
Address	Buccleuch Hall Lindal Ulverston Cumbria LA12 0LX

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

Lindal Playgroup was established in 1968. The provision operates across 2 sites; the Buccleuch Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 09:15 - 11:45 hours and Lindal and Marton Primary School on Monday and Friday 13:00 - 15:30 hours term time only. The two afternoon sessions are for children who will start school the following September (Rising Fives). When numbers permit, additional sessions are provided in the Buccleuch Hall on Monday and Friday mornings. The 2 sites are approximately 200 metres apart and are located in the centre of the village of Lindal - in - Furness, approximately 5 miles west of Barrow - in - Furness. Lindal Playgroup serves the immediate and extended rural communities.

In the Buccleuch Hall, children have access to the main hall, toilets, kitchen (under supervision) and the outside rear yard. In the school, children have access to the main hall, toilets, school corridors (for access), the library and playground.

There are currently 27 children on the register including 5 funded 4 year olds and 12 funded 3 year olds. There are no children with identified special educational needs and there are no children for whom English is an additional language.

The playgroup employ 7 staff including 1 administrator. Additionally, a school assistant works with children attending the Friday afternoon session at the school site. Staff qualifications are appropriate to the standard.

Lindal Playgroup has a close partnership with Lindal and Marton Primary School and is accredited by the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Lindal Playgroup provide good child care. Staff are suitably qualified, organised and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for example, within the keyworker system. Most policies and procedures are well written. Staff make good use of available space and provide appropriate resources to maximise children's learning for example, the organisation of space within the school and Buccleuch Hall

sites. Attention to confidentiality is good.

Attention to safety is satisfactory in most areas. Staff implement appropriate procedures to ensure children's safety for example, through risk assessments and when planning outings. Attention to safety is well reflected in the policies and procedures. Staff are generally aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding child protection and training is made available. Staff demonstrate good health and hygiene practice. There are some accessible hazards to children at the Buccleuch Hall and School sites and some out of date items within the first aid box.

Staff provide all children with a good range of activities and accessible resources across both sites for example free play, craft and physical activity. Children can self select resources and staff monitor this selection. Staff have a good understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and the early learning goals. Activities are varied to ensure that children remain interested and stimulated. Staff know the children well and value them as individuals. Children are well behaved towards each other and to staff.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents communicate with staff informally before and after sessions and are confident in staff's ability to provide care in accordance with their wishes and the child's individual needs.

Parents are involved in playgroup sessions at the Buccleuch Hall on a rota basis, serve on the management committee and receive regular newsletters. Parents however, do not have access to policies and procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection Lindal Playgroup has:

ensured that fire exits are secure and not obstructed to enhance levels of safety on the premises.

improved hygiene practice through the provision of paper hand towels.

revised the behaviour management policy to include procedures to deal with bullying.

revised the child protection procedure to include action to be taken in the event of an allegation against a member of staff or volunteer.

ensured that records are retained in accordance with regulatory requirements.

implemented a procedure to ensure that written records are kept of medication administered to children hence heightening staff's awareness and understanding of the requirements.

What is being done well?

- The partnership between staff and parents is good. Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs and parents are confident in the ability of staff to meet their needs. The involvement of parents on a rota basis fosters a good partnership between staff and parents which enables children to feel comfortable and settle quickly into their surroundings.
- The level of interaction between staff and children is good. Staff use a variety of positive techniques to value individual children and promote their self esteem.
- Space and resources are well organised to maximise children's choice and learning opportunities.
- The partnership between Lindal and Marton Primary School and the Playgroup. Pre-school children attend sessions twice per week within school and school staff visit children at the Buccleuch hall. This enables children to make a confident and smooth transition from pre-school to reception class.

What needs to be improved?

- some aspects of safety within the provision
- written complaints policy
- parents accessibility to policies and procedures.

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	Ensure that there is a first aid box complying with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981, the contents of which are checked frequently and replaced as necessary by a designated member of staff.
12	Review and update the complaints procedure to include details of the

	regulator and ensure that all policies and procedures are available to parents.
13	Ensure that appropriate training is provided to ensure staff remain updated regarding Area Child protection Committee procedures.
6	Improve levels of safety on the premises, indoor and out, by minimising hazards in the following areas; the loose fire extinguisher bracket in the school hall, the rusty metal chest and the unsecured store in the rear yard at the Buccleuch Hall, supervision of children when using the school playground, security of the school gate when the playground is in use by playgroup children.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Children at Lindal Playgroup overall are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff have a clear knowledge of the Foundation Stage and the early learning goals. Plans incorporate the stepping stones and show activities on a long term, medium term and short term basis however, the individual activity plans do not identify the desired learning outcome. Children's achievement is recorded as it occurs. Available space is used well across both sites. Resources are generally used well, however, some 4 year old children only attend the 'rising five' sessions at Lindal and Marton Primary School on a Monday and Friday and these children do not have access to musical instruments. Staff provide planned 'learning activities' across the curriculum for both sites. At the Buccleuch Hall, children have 'formal' access to all six areas of learning over a two week period. This means that children have insufficient opportunities for handwriting. Staff plan and effectively monitor 'free-play' where children self select from a range of provided resources.

The quality of leadership and management is generally good. Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities across the two sites and compliment each other well. Communication between staff and between staff and the management committee is good. Staff meet half - termly to monitor children's learning and plan ahead. Staff are generally well supported by a voluntary committee. The policies and procedures are clear and generally well written.

The partnership with parents is very good. Staff provide written information to parents about their child in the setting along with newsletters. Staff and parents exchange verbal information daily. Parents have access to their child's work, participate in the management committee, participate in outings and in the playgroup sessions on a voluntary rota basis. Parents have access to a noticeboard.

What is being done well?

- Children are well behaved towards each other and to staff. They are forming good relationships with each other and are learning to co-operate and negotiate.
- Children engage with enthusiasm in activities which enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world and personal, social and emotional awareness.
- The partnership with parents. Parents feel involved in their child's learning and confident in the ability of staff to meet the needs of their child.
- Staff make good use of available space across the two sites, thus enabling and encouraging children's freedom of movement and independence.

- Interaction levels between staff and children are positive.

What needs to be improved?

- the provision of accessible resources at Lindal Primary School to include musical instruments
- the activity planning to ensure that children have more opportunities for practicing handwriting at the Buccleuch Hall
- the plans for individual activities to make clear the desired learning outcome.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Lindal playgroup has made generally good progress since the last inspection.

Policies and procedures have been reviewed to bring them up to date with current practice.

Record keeping has been reviewed to include exploration of different observation and monitoring techniques. This means that children's achievement is recorded as it occurs and children's self selected activities are monitored to ensure that a balanced curriculum is delivered. Staff attend training courses where possible to keep up to date on new initiatives and extend good child care practice.

Children now have more opportunities to show initiative in creative art activities and in knowledge and understanding of the world to explore how and why things work. This promotes children's learning and self esteem.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident through discussions and role play and self-esteem is fostered appropriately by staff. Children take turns and share experiences, views and ideas. Children are relaxed and happily engaged in purposeful activity. Children are aware of the needs of others and respect personal space. Children show affection towards each other and staff. Children have a very good sense of their community.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have a good grasp of language and a good range of opportunities to challenge and develop their language and communication skills. Children do not have ongoing access to writing and handwriting materials in the Buccleuch hall. Children are confident to talk amongst themselves and to the larger group. Children show good listening skills at story time and are linking sounds with letters. Children are beginning to form recognisable letters in handwriting.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are recognising numbers up to 10 and are using counting in familiar context. Staff use some opportunities to extend the children's mathematical learning across the curriculum. Children are learning to compare numbers and are developing an understanding of addition and subtraction. Children use mathematical language appropriately. Children are developing a good understanding of shape, space, volume and measure.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children confidently use IT equipment to extend their learning. The provision of a wide range of resources enables children to explore and investigate with interest across the curriculum. Children learn about other people's cultures and activities. Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is fostered well in everyday activities and discussions.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Staff maximise opportunities for physical development through a range of equipment, tools, activities and materials across the curriculum. Available indoor and outdoor space is used well. Children confidently move around the available space and show a good awareness of themselves and others. Children have a good awareness of their health and bodily needs. Planning incorporates children's physical development.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children are exploring their imagination through a generally wide range of resources and activities. Visual and textured opportunities across the curriculum are available to enable children to extend their learning and express what they are feeling. There is no access to musical instruments on the school site, therefore restricting children's ability to learn about the different musical sounds. Children sing rhythm's from memory with enthusiasm and match movement to rhythm.	
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

- There are no significant weaknesses to report but the following points should be considered in the action plan:
- Review the provision of accessible resources at Lindal Primary School to ensure the inclusion of musical instruments so that children have opportunities to recognise and explore different sounds and sound patterns.
- Review the activity planning to ensure that children have more opportunities for practicing handwriting at the Buccleuch Hall.
- Ensure that plans for individual activities make clear the desired learning outcome.

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.