



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109485

DfES Number: 515798

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/02/2004
Inspector Name	Alison Weaver

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Polegate Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address	54 Windsor Way Polegate East Sussex BN26 6QF

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Management Committee
Address	Polegate Pre-School Playgroup Polegate Community Centre, 54 Windsor Way Polegate East Sussex BN26 6HE

## 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

Polegate Pre-School Playgroup opened in 1964. It operates from three rooms in a local community centre in Polegate, although not all the rooms are available at every session. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently 64 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 22 funded 3 year olds and 15 funded 4 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 five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09.15 until 11.45. There is a team of eleven staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have, or are working towards, a recognised early years qualification.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Polegate Pre-School Playgroup is a provision which is acceptable but children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses.

Staff develop warm, caring relationships with the children. They provide appropriate support for children with special needs. The quality of teaching has significant weaknesses. The planning is very basic and staff do not have sufficient information to carry out the activities effectively to ensure all children are making good progress. This results in challenges being set for the children which are not always appropriate. Although the provision is generally well organised some of the small group activities are not adequately prepared. This results in children losing interest. The accommodation and resources are not used fully to promote children's learning.

Records of children's progress and achievements are limited and not completed often enough to ensure that all children are working towards the early learning goals. These assessments are also not used effectively to plan the next stage of learning. Adult interaction with the children is sometimes limited which results in missed opportunities to encourage their development.

Leadership and management of the setting has significant weaknesses. The staff work well together and are supportive to one another. They are aware of their weakness in the area of planning but have not yet addressed it. There is no system in place to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and staff development.

The partnership with parents and carers is generally good. Parents like the fact that the staff are friendly and approachable. Parents are given a variety of helpful written information about the group. They are encouraged to help in the group and some serve on the committee. The opportunities for parents to contribute to their child's learning and receive formal feedback on their progress are limited.

### What is being done well?

- Children are very confident and relate well to each other and to adults. They generally behave well and show increasing respect for each other.
- Children's use of spoken language is good. They have regular opportunities to recognise their names.
- Children move with confidence and have good co-ordination, using a range of tools and equipment successfully.
- Staff work well together as a team to provide a relaxed and informal environment.

### **What needs to be improved?**

- the effective use of the environment to promote children's learning and more regular opportunities for mark making in the home corner
- opportunities for children to explore everyday technology and develop an awareness of other cultures and beliefs
- planning, to ensure that there is a balanced curriculum which covers all areas of learning and that there is sufficient detail to inform staff of what is expected including taking into account how activities can be adapted to suit children who learn at different rates or who have particular needs
- records of children's progress and achievements, and the effective use of them in the planning
- the process by which parents are kept informed of their child's progress and the opportunities for them to contribute to their child's learning
- the monitoring and evaluating of the provision to ensure that it is providing effective nursery education.

### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

The provision has made limited progress towards addressing the key issues raised at the last inspection.

The staff were asked to develop the assessment system to include all six learning areas. This has been addressed, however, they are still not using these assessments to plan the activities as was required.

Staff were asked to improve their knowledge and understanding of the six areas of learning. This is still ongoing as there has been a change of staff since the last inspection and several of the newer members are currently undertaking training to improve their knowledge. The provision was asked to particularly develop staff's ability to plan and teach early writing and science skills. The progress in these two areas are limited partly due to inadequate planning.

The provision was also asked to improve opportunities for parents to learn about their child's progress and contribute to the assessments. This area is still not yet fully extended but the group has put in place open mornings for parents to discuss their child's progress with staff.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children relate confidently to each other and to adults, freely expressing their needs and feelings. They are able to work happily on their own or in groups. They generally concentrate well but on some occasions become restless when activities are not well organised or resourced. The children show increasing independence but their progress in this area is slightly limited due to some opportunities being missed by staff.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
------------	------------------------

Children use language confidently and well in a variety of situations, particularly in imaginative play. They generally listen well to each other at small group times. Children confidently recognise their names. Progress is limited in word recognition due to the lack of displays in the rooms. Most children show increasing skill at letter formation but there are limited opportunities to write in play activities. Progress for some less able children is inhibited by inappropriate activities.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children are developing a good understanding of sorting and matching sizes. Children successfully count to 10 and beyond. They show increasing ability to recognise and name shapes correctly. Their use of mathematical language is developing through staff extending and promoting this. Children's understanding of simple calculation is limited. This is due to missed opportunities by staff to introduce it into everyday practical activities.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
------------	------------------------

Children freely share about their experiences and home life. Children experience a limited range of different tools and materials. They effectively design and make a range of objects. Children have insufficient opportunities to explore technology and programmable toys. Their awareness of cultures and beliefs, the natural world, and the environment, are not being fully extended.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
------------	------------------------

Children move with confidence and show good co-ordination skills. They use a variety of tools and equipment with increasing skill. Physical activities are included in the daily timetable but they are often not planned with identified learning intentions to ensure children are being challenged and extended in this area.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
	Children enjoy and readily take part in role play, making up a wide variety of stories and situations. They communicate their own ideas through a variety of media. Less opportunities are planned and provided for children to express themselves in dance, music, and movement so children's progress in these areas is limited. There are less opportunities for children to explore using their senses.
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	

### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses. The next inspection will take place in one to two years time.

### **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES**

- improve the planning in all areas of the curriculum to show how activities will cater for children working at different levels and rates
- ensure that there is sufficient detail given in the planning so that activities can be carried out effectively and children are progressing towards the early learning goals
- improve the observation and assessment of individual children's progress and use this information effectively to inform future planning
- put in place ways to monitor and evaluate the provision to ensure that the setting is effective.

*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.*