



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 143133

DfES Number: 547681

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/07/2004
Inspector Name	Michelle Tuck

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Hamdon Playgroup
Setting Address	Under the United Reformed Church North Street Stoke-sub-Hamdon Somerset TA14 6QP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Hamdon Playgroup 1033086
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Hamdon Playgroup
Address	Under the United Reformed Church North Street Stoke-sub-Hamdon Somerset TA14 6QP

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

The Hamdon Playgroup meets in the basement of the United Reform Church in Stoke Sub Hamdon, Somerset. It is registered for 26 children between the ages of 2 and 5 years and is open from 09:00 until 12:00 five days a week. Children attending the group are mainly drawn from the local village and the surrounding area.

The preschool has the use of a large open room with a separate home corner and comfortable open area to one side for reading and quiet play times.

Staffing consists of two joint supervisors, both with relevant qualifications and currently completing an NVQ III, two deputy supervisors with relevant qualifications, and additional staff members with a range of qualifications and many years experience. The group has very good relations with the two local primary school and has a supportive committee of interested parents.

How good is the Day Care?

Hamdon playgroup provides satisfactory care for children with some good aspects.

Staff create a warm and welcoming environment for the children and parents, posters and children's work is well displays which contributes to this. They use areas of the building well to group the children effectively, for example an area has been made into a role play area and an alcove into a book corner. There are a good range of activities available to the children which are well resourced and supported by the staff.

Children enjoy good relationships with the staff. The staff know the children very well, and the routine is well organised to meet the different needs of the children attending. Children's behaviour is very good, they know the rules and usually obey them. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are used and applied consistently. As a result the children are confident and have good self esteem.

Staff are active in carrying out procedures outlined in policies to ensure the safety of

the children. Staff are very safety conscious and remain vigilant at all times. Most policies are in place, and most documentation maintained.

Staff work well in partnership with parents. Staff provide parents with useful information about the group and the curriculum. Copies of policies and procedures are available and newsletters go out regularly to update the parents on relevant issues. However consideration needs to be given to further improve opportunities for parents to discuss their child with the staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to ensure all staff / volunteers are informed of the hygiene requirements in the kitchen area. There are different coloured cloths for different jobs in the kitchen and these are labelled accordingly. They also agreed to ensure the toilet area meets requirements including nappy changing facilities. The children wearing nappies are changed on the floor. The group were also to ensure adequate and good quality resources are available in the home corner to support imaginative play. The home corner has well organised resources to support the children in their play, these are changed regularly to support the role play area, such as a hospital or vets. The group were to ensure a copy of the up to date public liability insurance is displayed, this is in place. The staff were asked to ensure first aid qualifications are updated and include the first aid care for young children. This has been done. The group also agreed to ensure more planned opportunities and resources are provided to reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. There are a good range of resources in place. Finally they were to ensure a system is in place to record any incidents. There is a system now in place.

What is being done well?

- There are a good range of activities on offer to the children, activities are well resourced and supported to help the children in all areas of development.
- The sessions are well organised, good routines have been established and are flexible to take account of individual changing needs.
- Staff manage behaviour very well, as a result the children are very well behaved, confident and have good self esteem.

What needs to be improved?

- maintenance of fire log.
- written statement of procedures to follow if a child becomes lost.
- opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress more formally.

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

Std	Recommendation
2	ensure there is a written statement of procedure to be followed if a child becomes lost.
6	meet any recommendations made by the Fire Safety Officer (in this case a Fire Log Book)
12	provide more opportunities for parents to receive regular information on their children's progress

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Hamdon Playgroup provides a generally good standard of nursery education. Children are making very good progress in personal, social and emotional development and creative development. They are making generally good progress in communication, language and literacy, mathematical development, knowledge and understanding of the world, and physical development.

Teaching is generally good. The staff have a good understanding of the curriculum and how to implement it. Planning lacks clarity, with no identification of learning intent, individual needs or outcomes, however staff know the children well and plan interesting activities which relate to the stepping stones.

Children's behaviour is good. The staff set clear routines and boundaries and appropriate strategies are used and applied consistently. The children are given a lot of praise and encouragement and as a result are confident, independent and well motivated to learn.

Leadership and management is generally good. Staff work very well as a team and are supportive of each other.

The partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are informed about the provision, through regular newsletters and informal feedback. Parents do not receive opportunities to discuss their child's progress more formally at present.

What is being done well?

- Children are very confident. They respond well to a clear routine and boundaries. They are independent, have a good self esteem and are well motivated to learn.
- Children's behaviour is good. They interact well with each other and respond positively to staff.
- Staff work very well together as a team, making good use of time and resources and supporting the children well in their learning.
- Children are very creative. They are good at exploring colour, texture and shape. They use their imaginations well in creative and role play, co-operating well with one another.

What needs to be improved?

- use of individual children's assessments to influence planning.
- opportunities for children to linking sounds and letters.

- opportunities for children to practise addition and subtraction and use the language associated with this.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident and respond positively to their clear routines and boundaries. They understand how sessions follow a routine and follow instructions well. They are happy independent children and their behaviour is good. Children work well together, sharing experiences and taking turns.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children interact confidently with their peers and staff. There are planned opportunities for using paper and pencils, and mark making materials are readily available. Children practise writing their name and some children regularly attempt to name their work. Stories are thoroughly enjoyed by the children. The large book stand with visual aids are used effectively to help stories come to life. There are limited opportunities for the children to link sounds to letters.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children explore mathematics in all areas of learning. Children routinely count. Number activities are available as a free choice and appear to be popular. Children have sound knowledge of identifying and describing two dimensional shapes. Everyday they choose a shape from a bag and match it to the table to determine where they sit at snack time. There are limited opportunities for the children to learn about addition and subtraction and begin to use the vocabulary associated with this.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children use their senses well to explore, they are curious about how things happen and why? The children visit the local school, church and other amenities to learn about the community and the wider world. Children use construction sets with skill. They explore a variety of different types and learn about the different ways they join together. Children have limited access to the computer.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy physical play and are developing well. They balance and climb with skill and agility and move with confidence around the room negotiating pathways well. Children use a range of tools both large and small very well. Their fine motor skills are well developed.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children use their imaginations extremely well in the role play area, often extending to other areas of play. They cooperate well as a group and spontaneously take on different roles. Children have opportunities to paint and draw freely using their imaginations and creativity. For example, there are always resources available for the children to use to create with paints and sticking what they wish.	
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

- Ensure the children have more opportunities to link sounds and letters.
- ensure the use of children's individual assessments influence the planning, enabling more able children to be sufficiently challenged, and the staff are clear of learning outcomes of activities.
- provide more opportunities for the children to practise addition and subtraction and use the vocabulary associated with this.

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.