



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 256760

DfES Number: 511646

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/02/2004
Inspector Name	Carly Louise Thrower

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	East Community Playgroup
Setting Address	East Community Complex 68-72 Padholme Road Peterborough Cambs PE1 5EN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of East Community Playgroup 270078
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	East Community Playgroup
Address	East Community Complex 68-72 Padholme Road Peterborough Cambs PE1 5EN

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

East Community Playgroup operates from a hall in East Community Centre, which is in the central area of Peterborough. East Community Playgroup serves the local community.

There are currently 29 children on roll. This includes 18 funded 3 year olds and 5 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently has no children attending who have a special need or speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 to 11:45 each weekday morning.

Four part-time/full-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One staff member is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from an Early Years Pedagogical worker and Childcare advisor from the local EYDCP.

How good is the Day Care?

East Community Playgroup is providing good care for children. Staff make effective use of all available play space and provide an environment which allows children to feel secure and confident. Staff ensure that children are able to make progress in all areas of their development through well planned and meaningful activities. Children demonstrate a warm relationship with staff and enjoy their play.

Children's behaviour is good. Staff give good support to those children experiencing behavioural difficulties and make effective use of praise. They provide clear explanations to help children learn right from wrong. Children are provided with a variety of healthy and nutritious snacks including fresh fruit. Staff ensure personal hygiene is encouraged through routine activities. However, staff should ensure that

at least one staff member has a current first aid certificate at all times.

Children have access to a broad range of toys and play equipment which maintains their interest and supports their learning. However, staff should ensure that the sand play provides sufficient challenge for children especially when digging, filling buckets etc. There is a sufficient range of toys and resources which reflect equal opportunity principles.

Staff have developed very positive and friendly informal relationships with all parents. Parents are kept informed of their child's day and developmental progress on a regular basis and express their satisfaction at the care being offered. Documentation is well maintained.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Effective use is made of staff, space and other resources so that children feel secure and confident in their environment.
- Children participate in a broad and interesting range of activities which allow them to make good progress in their development. Children have developed friendly relationships with adults and others and approach their learning with enthusiasm.
- Behaviour is generally good and as a whole children are happy and play well together. Good support is given to those children who experience behaviour difficulties. Staff make effective use of praise and talk to children on their level, giving clear explanations to help children learn right from wrong.
- Staff display positive relationships with all parents. Parents express their satisfaction at the care being offered. They are kept regularly informed of their child's day and developmental progress through daily conversations, progress reports and parent consultations.

What needs to be improved?

- amount of sand in sand tray in order to provide sufficient challenge for children
- staff having valid first aid certificates in place.

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
5	Ensure that children are provided with sufficient challenge in the sand tray especially when filling buckets, digging etc.
7	Ensure that at least one staff member has a current first aid certificate at all times.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at East Community Playgroup is generally good. It enables children to make very good progress in communication, language and literacy and mathematical development and generally good progress in all other areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan a good range of practical activities which have clear learning intentions linked to the early learning goals in all six areas. They have a good understanding of how children learn, which is shown through the effective questioning of children and the opportunities given to predict and think for themselves. Activities are often extended or adapted to accommodate children's ideas and experiences. However, planning does not include vocabulary to be used or evidence that activities are evaluated. Staff observe and assess children in order to move them on to the next stage of their development.

The leadership and management of the playgroup is generally good. All staff work successfully together as a team and are clear in their roles and responsibilities and in the learning intentions for the children. Regular discussion and planning meetings are held in order for staff to monitor and evaluate their provision for nursery education. Staff are encouraged to put forward their thoughts and ideas for planning and all input is highly valued by the supervisor.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are well informed of the foundation stage curriculum and the playgroups activities and through clear and precise policies, handbooks and newsletters. Staff have developed very good relationships with all parents and value highly the knowledge they have about their child. The playgroup is well supported by parents who attend regular rota duties and events. Parents are kept very well updated of their child's progress through regular reports and parent consultations. They have the opportunity to talk to staff daily on a formal and informal basis.

What is being done well?

- Children's confidence. They work well independently and show high levels of concentration when completing tasks.
- Opportunities for children to engage in mark making for a purpose and to write their name.
- Opportunities for children to develop their counting skills and recognise numbers in the activities provided.
- Children's use of their imagination during their play.
- Staff's understanding of how children learn.
- Partnership with parents.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● organisation of large group time● provision of outside play.

What has improved since the last inspection?
<p>East Community Playgroup has made generally good progress since the last inspection. The previous key issues were to make the book corner more attractive, comfortable and inviting for children, extend the painting by offering dry powder paint and water for colour mixing and provide different sized paint brushes. Information for parents was to be improved by including what the children will learn and a brief outline of the policies in the welcome pack.</p> <p>Staff have now provided a soft surface in the book corner to sit and changed the position so that it faces into the room. Books are now neatly displayed. Children have regular opportunities to mix their own paint and are provided with different sized brushes at the paint easel. Good information is now provided in the handbook for parents and includes what children will learn in the six areas of learning.</p>

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are actively involved in their learning. They are confident, work well independently and show high levels of concentration when completing tasks. Behaviour is generally good. Children have developed good relationships with adults and others in the pre-school and are learning to share and take turns. However, large group time such as snack is not always effective in meeting the needs of all the children.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are very confident speakers and interact well in conversation with adults and others. Staff use every opportunity to develop children's growing vocabulary by introducing new words. Children have very good opportunities to engage in mark making for a purpose during their play and are confident to attempt writing such as in the 'restaurant'. They recognise writing on labels and the letters in their name. They try to write their names. Children use books for pleasure and information.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have good opportunities to develop their counting skills and number recognition through well planned and meaningful activities. Children can confidently count from 1-10 and have put together their own number books. Through the activities children show that they have developed a good understanding of concepts such as heaviest, lightest, more or less etc and often use mathematical language during their play. Children learn to recognise shapes and to look at different measures.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children show a good interest in ICT equipment and demonstrate that they understand how to complete a simple computer program using the mouse. There are good opportunities to explore and investigate objects and materials in their environment using discussion and all of their senses. Children's own ideas are developed and encouraged such as adding water to castor sugar to observe the changes. Children learn about place, time and cultures through activities that relate to themselves

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children move well and with confidence during their play showing a sense of personal space and others. They demonstrate increasing control when using small tools and equipment such as scissors, sellotape and cutters and handle them with care. However, the outdoor play area is not promoted well so that children have access to the same curriculum opportunities as inside.	

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children are able to confidently explore shape, colour and texture on a regular basis using a range of materials. Children use their imagination well during their play often making up their own stories and situations based on first hand situations. They are also provided with a range of interesting and stimulating role play situations on which to build their play upon. Children put actions to music and enjoy singing familiar songs.	

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

- Give greater emphasis to the provision of outside play, to ensure children are given the same opportunities to make progress in the six areas of learning as inside, with adequate support from staff.
- Ensure that large group time is effective in meeting the needs of all the children.

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.