



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315940

DfES Number: 534263

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	01/11/2004
Inspector Name	Susan, Helen Spencer

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Bolton Children's Opportunity Group Playgroup
Setting Address	Lowndes Street Nursery Lowndes Street Heaton Bolton BL1 4QB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Childrens Opportunity Group
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Childrens Opportunity Group
Address	Lowndes Street Heaton Bolton BL1 4QB

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

The Childrens Opportunity Group (COG) is situated in a single storey purpose built post war building in the Heaton area of Bolton. COG is a voluntary organisation run by parents which was founded in 1979. The group was registered in 1992 to offer sessional day care for up to 30 children. There are five rooms available for childcare one being a multi - sensory/ light stimulation room , adequate toilet and washroom facilities are also available. Outdoor play is accessed through each room into a fully enclosed fenced area with 'absorba form' all weather floor covering. Disabled access is provided at all entrances and a car park is available at the side of the building. The club provides a mini bus service to help transport parents and children to the group and transport from the education department is also used. The service operates Monday - Friday from 9:15am to 11:45am. There are 13 children with funded places and the group has links with the early years teacher and SEN development officer.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Bolton Children's Opportunity Group Playgroup provides a very high quality of nursery education which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals. All areas of learning are promoted very effectively by an imaginative well-planned programme of activities which caters for all children's needs, especially those children with Special Educational Needs. Personal, social and emotional development is given high priority and is a strength of the playgroup as children settle well and feel secure. Mathematical development is a strong area and they are learning to count and recognise number. Children are developing their language and communication skills and this also enables children for whom English is an additional language to develop their speaking skills. Children enjoy books, however, there are insufficient opportunities to link sounds to letters.

The quality of teaching is very good in all areas of learning. Staff are confident and knowledgeable, they have successfully devised schemes to include all children into the happy stimulating learning environment. Staff give individual children an appropriate level of support and are most kind and caring towards them. Children are well-behaved and are developing independence skills. Children are grouped and challenged appropriately as they participate in activities. The playgroup benefits from a comfortable and outstandingly well resourced facility. Staff regularly assess children's learning against the stepping stones and the early learning goals.

The leadership and management of the playgroup is very good. The committed and dedicated president and manager, together with a capable staff team who have a collaborative approach to all aspect of their work ensure that high standards are maintained. A formal staff appraisal system is to be developed.

A very good relationship with parents and carers has been formed as they are encouraged to share in their children's learning.

What is being done well?

- The playgroup provides a very valuable contribution to the life of the local community as it cares for the children and supports the needs of the parents.
- The Manager and staff provides a secure environment for all children, particularly those children who have Special Educational Needs. They are successfully integrated into the sessional activities and benefit from an imaginative, stimulating well-planned programme that caters for the individual needs of all children. The quality of teaching is very good and staff are confident in their own understanding of the early learning goals.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is a strength of the playgroup. They settle well into the daily routines and show care and consideration to each other. They are well-behaved. A caring happy family

atmosphere has been created by staff. Children are developing a clear understanding of other cultures and beliefs.

- The playgroup benefits from both strong leadership from the President and a knowledgeable Manager, who are both committed to the children and staff. A collaborative approach to all aspects of their work has been developed by a most caring, capable and experienced staff team.
- A very close partnership has been formed with the parents. Staff give caring support and guidance to them, and this has a significant impact on the children's progress. Parent's help to fundraise and some parents are on the committee and act as volunteers at the playgroup.
- Staff confidently encourage all children to develop their language and communication skills and this is particularly effective in enabling children with special educational needs and those for whom English is an additional language to develop their speaking skills.
- Children's own creative work is beautifully displayed to promote their self-esteem and develop further understanding.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to link sounds to letters.
- develop and introduce the formal staff appraisal system to monitor the quality of teaching.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children's development in this area is given high priority and it is outstanding. They are beginning to form friendships and a caring family atmosphere prevails. Children very much enjoy coming to playgroup and are interested and motivated to learn. They are settling well into the daily routines. Children are encouraged to listen and sit quietly as they enjoy circle time, and gently pass around 'Beat Baby'. Children are well-behaved and personal independence skills are promoted very effectively.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are given many good opportunities to develop early writing skills as they make marks and draw detailed pictures of themselves. Some children are beginning to write their names. They are encouraged to recognise their name as they arrive. Children clearly enjoy books and use them appropriately, as they are encouraged to talk about the pictures, however, there are insufficient opportunities for children to associate sounds with letters. They develop good language and communication skills.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are encouraged to count and recognise numbers at each session. They enjoy taking the register and record the number of children present. Older children count confidently up to 10. Children enjoy a wide range of counting songs which encourage them to develop an understanding of addition and subtraction. Children create a beautiful display of 'Big and Little Polar Bears' and this enables them to develop an understanding of size. They create a chart and record their favourite vegetable.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children enjoy talking about their homes and families as they share their news. Staff provide magical experiences for children to develop their understanding of the world in which they live. Children enjoy making vegetable soup and observe the changes that occur as the soup is liquidized. There are opportunities for children to develop confidence and understanding in the use of technology and a child confidently used the controls to make a toy dog move. Children celebrate Christmas and Diwali.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children participate in vigorous play as they enjoy outdoor play at each session. They balance and climb confidently and there are a wide range of toys for them to use. Staff give caring support to the less confident children. Children recognise the changes that happen to their bodies when they are active and understand the importance of keeping healthy, as they talk about what they had for breakfast. Their skills with paintbrush, pencil and glue-sticks are developing well.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have a wide range of opportunities to explore colour and shape. They enjoy mixing paint and create vegetable prints. Children benefit from the many free painting experiences provided. They create the backgrounds for beautiful displays, as in the 'Arctic Landscape' and they make an imaginative cave for the 'Polar Bears', this enables them to confidently choose and use a wide range of materials and textures. Staff provide a stimulating programme of activities which are linked to the topic.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improve the following:
- provide opportunities for children to link sounds to letters.
- introduce a formal staff appraisal system to monitor the quality of teaching.

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.