



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 303449**

**DfES Number: 583808**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      26/07/2004  
Inspector Name      Janice Shaw

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Full Day Care  
Setting Name      Playmates 2  
Setting Address      136 Hough Green Road  
                                 Widnes  
                                 Cheshire  
                                 WA8 4PG

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Mrs Christine Devlin

## 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

Playmates 2 Day Nursery opened in 2000. It operates from a converted two storey house close to the centre of Widnes. The nursery serves a wide area local area.

There are currently 48 children from birth to five years on roll. This includes 6 funded three year olds and 12 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery supports who have special needs. There are no children on roll who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Opening hours are 08:00 until 18:00.

There are nine part time and five full time staff working with the children, and eleven staff have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Playmates 2 Day Nursery provides good day care for children. The nursery's aims to provide a family environment which is warm, happy and stimulating is successfully met in practice. Clear leadership, a good staff induction programme and regular staff appraisals ensure the staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. The very detailed operational plan is effectively put into practice. All playrooms are stimulating and exciting and the children choose from a wide range of high quality resources. Children experience premises which are bright and attractively decorated.

Safety is good with effective procedures in place for checking safety at appropriate intervals. Commendable hygiene procedures are in place both for keeping the premises and equipment clean and for promoting healthy hygiene routines in the children. The children enjoy fresh, nutritious food and all staff are aware of the children's dietary needs, allergies, likes and dislikes. Fresh drinking water is available in each nursery room. Effective systems are in place for child protection

procedures. Positive behaviour strategies are used to manage children's behaviour and constant praise is used to boost their self-esteem.

Children are encouraged to learn by example and to respond to and respect their peers. Each child is equally valued and staff strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination and provide an environment where children can develop their self-esteem effectively. Children's behaviour is exemplary. Children with special needs are well supported and included in all aspects of the setting. Children are encouraged to become independent and self confident in all aspects of pre-school life.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents speak highly of the provision; they feel welcome and find the staff approachable. Staff communicate with them in a variety of ways, and each child has a daily diary record which they take home each day.

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

Good progress has been made following the last inspection when the nursery was required to extend the behaviour management policy to include methods of managing bullying. This is not included in the behaviour management policy.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The way that staff time is organised so that they can talk to, hold and play with babies and toddlers, thus demonstrating their understanding of the extra care and individual attention that is required of children under two. Parents are always consulted about individual routines, so that the routines for that day can take account of the amount of sleep and feeds that they have had prior to arriving at the nursery.
- The provision of interesting and stimulating activities in each nursery room. Children are motivated and enjoy playing with the equipment and activities that are available to them. A good balance is achieved through allowing children to play independently as well as providing activities, which need adult support and encouragement.
- Effective procedures are in place to promote the good health and hygienic routines of the children. Children learn to clean their teeth after meals as soon as they start at the nursery. Children wash their hands at appropriate times, and nappy changing routines are hygienic and children's dignity is maintained at all times.
- The high quality interaction between staff and children is a strength of the setting. Staff have created an exciting and caring environment in which learning can be developed. Children are learning from watching staff and other children and are given many opportunities to independently practice what they have observed.

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

- the access to positive images for children under three

**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
9	Continue to develop the promotion of positive images for children under three.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Playmates Day Nursery offers provision which is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. Children are happy, confident and enthusiastic to learn through the different levels of challenge within the rich selection of activities and resources provided.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a secure knowledge of the early learning goals and a very good understanding of how children learn which enables them to support and promote children's progress effectively in a developmentally appropriate way. Staff have valuable insight into the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. The staff's lively and enthusiastic manner, and the way the environment is organised to support children's independent access to resources, strongly contributes to children being active and very successful learners.

The leadership and management of the nursery is very good. The direction provided by the managers reflects what constitutes excellence in Nursery education. Staff are valued and are clear about their roles and responsibilities enabling them to work successfully as a team. Systems are in place to support and encourage staff development which contributes to the continued improvement of the nursery.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are provided with good quality written information about the nursery and its provision. There are effective systems in place to share information about children's progress. Parents speak very positively about the care and education provided.

### What is being done well?

- Children's positive attitudes towards and enthusiasm for the provision are excellent. They reach high standards in behaviour and personal development because of staff's high expectations of them. When helping themselves to raisins at snack time children are aware of the need to only take what they need and to leave enough for the rest of the group.
- Planning is geared to making children independent learners, able to understand how to choose and gain good powers of concentration; a strong emphasis is placed on learning through first hand experiences. At the beginning of each session, during circle time, children are asked what equipment they would like put out; they then choose and take responsibility for setting up that particular activity, always being sensitively supported and encouraged by staff.
- Children enjoy mathematical activities and have developed a positive attitude to all aspects of mathematics. They work well together and are developing a very good understanding of early measurement, including weighing, capacity,

size and shape. Children's grasp of number is outstanding.

- Children's skills in communication, language and literacy are exceptionally well developed. They practice their writing skills in meaningful ways as they label their work and write short sentences to describe what they have drawn. Children spontaneously link sounds to the initial letters of their names and show great enthusiasm for rhyming and rhythmic activities.

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

- the range of print available to children during role-play situations.

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

Following the last inspection in August 2000 the nursery had three key issues to be included in their action plan. Progress in implementing this action plan has been very good.

Children were to be provided with greater opportunities to recognise and learn letters of the alphabet by shape and sound and to have access to an attractive selection of books. In mathematics children were required to recognise and use numbers and to develop an increased awareness of addition and subtraction. Planning was to give priority to these areas.

Children now have included in the planning, greater opportunities to develop their skills in these areas. Development has been such that following this inspection they are included in what the nursery does well.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's capacity to make good relationships with others is excellent. Expectations for behaviour are stated in a gentle and precise way, thus all quickly acquire confidence and self-respect and are aware of right and wrong. They work together collaboratively sharing construction materials on the carpet or engrossing themselves in the roles of cook in the home corner. Children concentrate well and persevere in both activities whether of their own choice or adult-led.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children enjoy a wide diet of stories, rhymes and songs, and in all activities they are introduced to new and varied vocabulary. Children are very enthusiastic in their role play and here the new language comes into its own as they play together making up their own imaginary situations. High attaining children are able to group letters into words to form sentences in emergent writing. Children are becoming aware of the different purposes of writing, such as in song, diaries and shopping lists.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn to count as an integral part of all activities. More able children are able to recognise when a number is missing from a group up to ten. One child knew that there were always five sets of numbers in a piece of equipment and that when the number groups were added together it made 15. Many children are able to match the number symbol with its name. Children understand that fruit and play dough can be divided into equal pieces and many knew that two halves make a whole apple.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children display great confidence when talking about their homes and families and are able to discuss their experiences illustratively. Accurate assessments of the weather, days and dates are made and discussed in circle time. Children excitedly explained, how large circular ice shapes were made using balloons and also what happened when salt and food colourings were sprinkled on top. All children plant, care for and observe the marigolds and sunflowers in the small bed in the garden.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show obvious enjoyment in physical activities. They run and jump on the spot, a few jump quite high. Many children can skip and confidently show this to their friends. They demonstrate good control of their bodies when walking sideways and taking big strides. Consideration is shown to others when they take turns to use balls and wheeled equipment. Children manipulate modelling materials skilfully and use tools systematically to roll, mould and mark their pieces.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children reach high standards in portrait drawings, mixing and applying hair colour with care and placing features correctly. When drawing pictures of their favourite songs, two children illustrated, " Who let the dogs out" and another "Humpty Dumpty" with credible accuracy. They sing in tune as they play both independently and with friends at circle time. In role-play children use their imagination and express themselves well, perceptively playing out their experiences, using examples of print.

**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 improving the following:
- increase the existing range of print available to children in role play activities.

*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.*