



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 500756

DfES Number: 538120

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	14/09/2004
Inspector Name	Eileen Rochford

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Easington Colliery Playgroup
Setting Address	Church of Ascension Church Hall Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery Peterlee County Durham SR8 3PG

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Easington Colliery Playgroup
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Easington Colliery Playgroup
Address	Church of Ascension Church Hall Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery Peterlee County Durham SR8 3PG

## 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

Easington Colliery Playgroup has been registered since 2000 and is a committee run group. The group is situated in Easington Colliery and serves the local communities and the surrounding area. The group operates in a church hall, which is organised into areas of learning.

Sessions are from 09:00 to 11:30 and 12.30 to 15.00 Tuesday to Thursday. They are currently caring for eighteen children of whom fifteen 3 year olds are in receipt of nursery education funding. They offer sessional day care.

Four staff work with the children and two hold a child care qualification, with two members of staff working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from the Local Authority.

### How good is the Day Care?

Easington Colliery Playgroup provides good care for children. All staff within the setting are vetted, with information kept on staff files. The premises provide a warm welcoming environment for both adults and children. Space within the rooms is very well organised, with consideration given to the age/stage of the children attending. Records are in place. There is a comprehensive range of policies and procedures which covers all aspects of the care provided.

Safety within the setting is given high priority. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding and awareness of safety issues. Staff have an understanding of the importance of developing children's awareness and understanding of hygiene issues. However tables were not given attention prior to snacks being served. Healthy snacks are provided, with menus displayed daily for parents. Drinks are freely available.

The group provides a rich and stimulating learning environment for children. They are able to explore and experiment with a range of activities, at their own pace, and are supported by a committed staff team. Children have developed sound

relationships with adults and peers. They are confident and happy, talking freely to everyone in the group. They have a range of resources which reflects the cultural diversity of society and promotes equal opportunities in all aspects of group life. The group have a positive approach to special needs.

Staff work well with parents. They ensure that parents are kept informed on a daily basis, using various methods. They have developed professional relationships based on mutual respect. Children's behaviour within the group is very good. Staff provide positive role models, valuing positive behaviour, and develop children's awareness of right and wrong

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

At the last inspection an action was raised requiring the group to develop an action plan setting out how staff would obtain training and qualifications in first aid. This has been addressed with staff completing a St John Ambulance course on first aid for babies and young children on 20th March 2003. The certificate is displayed in the entrance hall.

The group were also required to ensure that the child protection procedures include a statement on allegations against a member of staff - this has now been included in child protection policy.

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

- Children develop a range of skills through the stimulating activities provided in the group. They become engrossed and involved in their chosen activity.
- Children develop a sound understanding of safety, health and hygiene issues, through a wide range of exciting everyday activities.
- There is a wide and comprehensive range of policies and procedures in the group. These allow everyone to be kept informed of practice. Parents are encouraged to access these.
- High expectations of staff, promote very good behaviour within the group. Children understand the boundaries and respect these with older children involved in setting "group rules".
- In all areas of the group staff have developed excellent relationships with the children. Children freely seek their support, and staff are alert to all individual needs of the children and ensure activities are provided to meet their needs.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

There are no complaints to report.

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

- ensure that a committee structure is in place at all times, with members aware of their roles and responsibilities

- ensure that hygiene practices are carried out through all the group.

**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
2	Ensure that management committee is operational with all members aware of their responsibilities.
7	Ensure that tables are given appropriate attention before snacks are served.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Easington Colliery Playgroup provides good quality nursery education overall which helps children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. Progress in personal, social and emotional development, communication, language and literacy and creative development is very good. Progress in mathematical development, knowledge and understanding of the world and physical development is generally good.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff have adequate knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals and use them satisfactorily when planning activities. Staff are forming good relationships with the children and have realistic expectations of their behaviour, resulting in a positive learning environment. They draft long, medium and short-term plans, linked to the six areas of learning, using interesting themes. Present systems do not consistently ensure a broad, balanced and purposeful curriculum for all children or closely monitor children's progress along the stepping stones towards the early learning goals.

Leadership and management systems are generally good. The facility is usually committee run, although the new committee has not yet been elected. The playgroup leader ensures staff are well supported and there are good opportunities for training and staff development. All staff demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to their work. They identify their strengths and areas for development and aim to monitor and improve practices further.

Partnership with parents is generally good. Staff provide basic information about the curriculum and use informal daily updates to discuss issues with parents. Present arrangements do not effectively ensure parents have opportunities to be involved with their child's learning at home or in the setting, nor that they receive consistent regular updates about their child's progress. Comments from parents indicate that they hold staff in high regard.

### What is being done well?

- The enthusiasm of staff is recognised as having a positive influence on children's attitude and approach to learning. They are committed to continually improving practices within the group.
- Children appear happy and are gaining confidence and independence. They are forming good relationships with each other and interact well with staff.
- Children are learning to speak confidently in small or large groups situations. Some use complex vocabulary; others use gestures and body language to communicate.

<b>What needs to be improved?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● procedures for using daily routines more effectively to improve opportunities for children to develop counting and number skills, develop an interest in shape and size, talk about home routines and significant events that happen to them and to ensure all children engage in physical activities appropriate for their stages of development</li><li>● staff knowledge, planning and assessments, to ensure all children receive a broad, balanced and purposeful curriculum and that children's progress is closely monitored along the stepping stones towards the early learning goals</li><li>● procedures for ensuring parents to receive good-quality information about the curriculum, keeping them well informed of their child's progress and improving opportunities for them to be actively involved with children's learning.</li></ul>



<b>What has improved since the last inspection?</b>
not applicable

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

All children are settled and very happy within the group. They are forming sound relationships with staff, adults and peers. Most have a good awareness of daily routines. They are very interested, excited and motivated to learn and have a positive approach to new experiences. Most behave very well and demonstrate good self control. Most manage themselves very well in matters of self care i.e. personal hygiene, although some need help with more difficult tasks i.e. fastening coats etc.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are gaining good language and communication skills. More able children speak confidently, whilst others may use gestures to communicate. Most children listen very well to stories and respond happily to questions. Others enjoy looking at the illustrations. Children enjoy rhythmic activities and are beginning to distinguish sounds. All are developing good hand-eye co-ordination. They enjoy mark-making and more able children are beginning to form some recognisable shapes.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Some children show an interest in numbers and counting, although daily routines are not consistently used to encourage all children to count, use number names or develop an interest in shape and size. Some more able children are learning to touch count a series of objects. They are beginning to compare groups of objects in order to recognise when they have the same number. Many observe and use positional language spontaneously during their play.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy a broad range of activities that help them develop knowledge and understanding of the world, although there are some missed opportunities for them to talk about home routines and significant events that happen to them. Some enjoy designing and constructing using a variety of interesting materials. They show curiosity and interest in why things happen and how things work. Some show an interest in ICT and more able children know how to operate simple equipment well.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have regular physical opportunities but present routines do not ensure that all children engage sufficiently in order to make adequate progress in gross motor skills. All children move around confidently, showing good spatial awareness. More able show very good control when using climbing equipment. All are gaining good hand/eye co-ordination. Many select and use small tools and equipment well. All manage their own needs and healthy practices independently.

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children enjoy good creative activities that promote colour, texture and sensory awareness. They show interest in what they see, hear, smell, taste and touch. They enjoy songs and action rhymes. Some sing and use musical instruments confidently, whilst others watch and join in when encouraged to do so. Most use body language, gestures and facial expression well to show their feelings. Some use role play well to develop imagination; more able children acting out first-hand experiences.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	



## 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

- continue to improve staff knowledge, planning and assessment systems to ensure all children receive a broad, balanced and purposeful curriculum and that children's progress is closely monitored along the stepping stones towards the early learning goals
- ensure focused activity sheets are fully completed and well utilised to confirm that all children are sufficiently challenged. Use these effectively to monitor children's progress and to inform future planning
- develop the curriculum by using daily routines to improving opportunities for children to gain counting and number skills, develop an interest in shape and size, talk about home routines and significant events that happen to them. Improve planned opportunities for all children to engage in physical activities appropriate for their stages of development e.g. more able children to move in a variety of ways
- improve procedures for giving parents good-quality information about the curriculum, for keeping them well informed of their child's progress and for encouraging them to be actively involved with children's learning.

*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.*