



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 130711**

**DfES Number: 514247**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date      05/07/2004  
Inspector Name      Christine McInally

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type      Full Day Care  
Setting Name      Playtime Under Fives  
Setting Address      Saxon Pavilion  
                         Aldrington Recreation Ground, Saxon Road  
                         Hove  
                         East Sussex  
                         BN3 4LE

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name                      Maureen Crookes

## 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

Playtime Under Fives first registered in 1996 and is accommodated in a sports pavilion situated within Aldrington Recreation Ground, Hove. It is privately owned, and the provider who holds a suitable level three qualification works full time in the playgroup. It is open Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 15:00, during term time only. There are currently 36 children on roll who attend a variety of sessions, including 8 funded three-year-olds and 18 funded four-year-olds. There are currently two children attending who have special needs and two children for whom English is an additional language. The children attending are representative of the local community. Including the owner there are seven members of staff, of these six hold suitable qualifications in childcare at level three, the other is unqualified but has attended a wide range of short courses. The premises consist of a large playroom, which looks onto the playing fields, a small kitchen off the main room and separate toilet facilities. The group has access to the large open playing field adjoining the pavilion, good procedures are in place to ensure the safety of children while using this area. The nursery receives support from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

The quality and standard of day care provided by Playtime Under Fives is good. There is an effective operational plan in place which guides the staff team in their daily practice. The playgroup is well organised and provides a rich learning environment. There are good safety measures in place and children are safe and extremely well cared for. The playgroup offers a stimulating, child friendly environment and children are happy and well settled.

Staff form warm, caring relationships with the children and support them well in their chosen activities. They plan and provide an interesting, worthwhile range of topics and activities, children are making good progress in all areas of learning and development. The good resources available are well organised to support children's learning. Children play confidently together and enjoy choosing activities and resources for themselves.

Partnership with parents is good, the parents booklet contains useful information on the playgroup and includes copies of all policies and procedures. There are formal and informal systems to share information on children's progress and achievements, ensuring their individual needs are met. All the relevant paperwork is in place and is well maintained, although occasionally it lacks the necessary detail.

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

Not applicable.

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

- Children enjoy choosing resources for themselves and taking part in activities that build on their interests and they are making good progress in all areas of learning and development.
- Staff form warm, caring relationships with the children and know them well. They spend a lot of time talking and playing with them. Children are happy and confident.
- Staff are confident in their management of children's behaviour. Children respond well to the consistent praise and encouragement. They readily take part in activities, help to tidy away resources and are well behaved.
- An interesting and stimulating range of topics, help children to learn a great deal about the world in which they live.

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

- minor aspects of paperwork.

#### **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
7	Ensure that the record of accidents is consistently signed by parents.
7	Obtain a list of infectious notifiable diseases.

## 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 Playtime Under Fives is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a clear understanding of the stepping stones and the early learning goals and this is reflected in the planning. They plan an interesting and stimulating range of activities and understand what children learn from them. They offer good support to children in their chosen activities; they question them effectively encouraging them to think for themselves. Activities are presented in an enthusiastic manner; staff are skilled in using everyday situations to develop children's understanding of number and their language skills. Staff give good support to children identified as having special educational needs. Resources are of good quality and are well organised to support children's learning, apart from the book area which is under-used by the children.

The playgroup has an effective assessment system in place that enables them to record children's progress towards the early learning goals. The information gathered is continually evaluated and used well to plan for the children's next stage in learning.

The leadership and management is very good. The staff group are motivated and work well together as a team, they are very committed to continual improvement, and are actively encouraged to attend further training. There are formal and informal systems in place to monitor and evaluate the educational programme provided.

Partnership with parents is very good, they are provided with clear information about the nursery and the educational programme. Parents are offered opportunities to be involved in their child's learning, for example the book loan scheme enables children to continue their learning at home. There are formal and informal systems in place for sharing information on children's progress.

### What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is promoted effectively. Children are happy, confident and interested in the activities offered. They are developing an awareness of others needs and good self esteem.
- Children's communication, language and literacy skills are encouraged well. They are confident speakers, understand writing can be used for a variety of purposes and are beginning to write for themselves.
- Everyday situations are used well to help children learn how to use numbers and to extend their understanding of adding numbers together or taking them

away.

- Staff create a well planned, stimulating environment where children learn through a wide range of practical play activities.
- Relationships between children and staff are good, they question children effectively and give them good support in their chosen activities. Children are well motivated to learn.

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

- children's use of the book area.

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

The playgroup has made generally good progress in addressing the key issues raised at the last inspection. More opportunities are provided for children to explore and express their own creative ideas using self-chosen art and craft materials and they are making very good progress in this area of learning. Children are encouraged to share their news and talk about events that interest them as they take part in the daily routines and activities. However, planned opportunities when children can share their news with each other are limited.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and well motivated to learn. They form good relationships with other children and adults, and are sensitive to others needs. They enjoy the wide range of activities offered and are developing their own personal independence well. They show concern for each other; they share and take turns well. Staff value children's work, and contributions, and they are developing good self-esteem. Children's behaviour is good and they have positive attitudes to learning.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident speakers, they listen well at story time and to instructions. They negotiate well in role-play activities and talk confidently about real and imagined experiences, for example as they discuss their visit to the farm. They are sufficiently encouraged to notice the sounds of letters and rhyme. They attempt to write for themselves and staff give good support to help them form the letters correctly.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children skilfully use and recognise numbers in everyday activities. They count confidently to 10, and beyond, and are developing an understanding of simple number operations such as adding together and taking away. Children are beginning to use mathematical language to compare size and recognise shape. They develop an awareness of weight and capacity through the use of resources such as sand and water and practical activities such as baking. The computer is well used to support their learning.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

An interesting range of topic work and practical activities arouses children's natural curiosity and develops their exploration and investigation skills. Children use their own ideas to make things by building and joining using materials such as junk modelling and construction toys. The good use of photographs encourages children to talk about and recall past events. They extend their knowledge of other cultures as they use a range of suitable resources and celebrate a variety of festivals.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move with confidence showing a good awareness of space and others in both the indoor and outdoor space. Staff are on hand to support and develop their skills such as riding the bikes and scooters with increasing confidence. They learn about health and bodily awareness through topics and planned activities. Children are learning to handle tools such as pencils, brushes and scissors with increasing skill.

## CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children explore sounds as they sing and play with musical instruments. They are offered a variety of activities that encourage them to respond using all their senses, for example, as they make vegetable prints and make shapes in the shaving foam. Children enjoy worthwhile opportunities to explore texture and three dimensional space when making collages and creating models. They are actively encouraged to use the imaginative play area and to engage in meaningful role-play.

**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:*

- develop the book area to encourage children to read and share books with each other.

*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.*