



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 311279

DfES Number: 523519

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/04/2004
Inspector Name	Marilyn Ashley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Christ Church Playgroup
Setting Address	Christ Church Church Street Huddersfield West Yorkshire HD5 9DL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Christ Church Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Christ Church Playgroup
Address	Christ Church Church Street Huddersfield West Yorkshire HD5 9DL

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

Christ Church Playgroup is located in the Moldgreen area of Huddersfield. It is a voluntary organisation run by a committee.

The group serves a diversity of families from the local community.

The group offer sessional care in one room of the church hall and opens Monday and Thursday from 09:15 to 11.30 and 12:30 to 14:30 term time only.

There are 12 funded children on roll all of which are 3 years old. There are currently 5 children on roll who have English as an additional language (EAL) and 1 child identified as having special educational needs (SEN).

There are three members of staff working with the children, two of who have appropriate child care qualifications. The remaining member of staff is working towards a qualification.

The playgroup receives regular support from the advisory teacher and development worker attached to the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Christ Church playgroup provide a welcoming learning environment where children are happy, confident and settled and make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. Staff have a generally good knowledge of the early learning goals. They have developed good relationships with the children and they support and encourage their learning. Staff plan an interesting range of resources and activities, linked to the early learning goals. However, the deployment of staff needs to be more effective to ensure the learning opportunities for children are maximised. Staff know the children well and use observation and assessment to inform the planning for individual children's progress. The planning of focussed activities, however, needs to be in more depth and the learning intentions understood and utilised by all staff, to ensure the progression of all children. Staff provide a good role model for children and have realistic expectations of children's behaviour, resulting in children developing good behaviour.

Leadership and management is generally good. The committee are supportive and the staff are very committed to the improvement of the service they provide. Good opportunities to attend training are available and staff share information to improve the nursery education. Systems are in place to evaluate the nursery education, but further development is needed to ensure staff evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the provision effectively. There are good systems to support children with special educational needs and children with English as an additional language.

Partnership with parents is very good. Good information on all aspects of the provision is available. Staff are very supportive of parents and good relationships are developed. Parents are encouraged to contribute their ideas and share information on their child. This is not always well supported by parents and could be encouraged further.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is very good. Children are happy, confident and settled. Children become involved in their play, are interested, motivated to learn and concentrate well.
- Children use their imagination well to freely express themselves, especially during role play.
- Children's creative development is very good. Children explore a range of media and materials and express themselves creatively in art, design and music.
- Staff plan a range of interesting activities linked to the early learning goals. They know the children well and use the information effectively in planning

and assessment. Good relationships are formed and they support and encourage children well.

- Staff are very committed. They develop good relationships with parents and carers and are very supportive.
- Children enjoy books and stories and use books for finding information.

What needs to be improved?

- the planning of focussed activities to increase children's learning opportunities and to ensure the progression of all children
- the deployment of staff to maximise the learning opportunities for children
- the opportunities for children to use and record numbers, solve mathematical problems, and explore letters and letter sounds in everyday practical activities.
- children's opportunities to access activities that develop their physical skills and aspects of knowledge and understanding of the world, for example, how things work and the local environment.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Progress since the last inspection has been generally good. The staff have worked very hard on planning and assessment to ensure the learning intentions, in all six areas of development, are clear. This is working well, but would be further improved by more in depth planning of focussed activities and an increased understanding, by all staff, of how this can be used more effectively in practice. Opportunities for children to solve mathematical problems have been increased, but this needs to be developed further. The staff have increased the range of opportunities to develop children's physical skills. However, despite the restrictions of the setting, opportunities need to be planned on a more regular basis to ensure children's progression. Opportunities to access a wider range of tools and materials in the areas of creative development and knowledge and understanding of the world have been increased considerably. Provision for art and design is now very good.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and settled. They are interested and motivated to learn. They become interested in activities and concentrate well. Most children are independent, they select their resources and make their own choices. They talk freely and have developed good relationships with each other and with staff. They play well together, share and take turns and their behaviour is generally good. The more mature children show respect and concern for others within the group.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy looking at books and using them to find information. They listen with interest to stories and join in songs and rhymes with enthusiasm. Children develop good relationships and they engage easily in conversation with adults and other children. They use their imagination, particularly in the veterinary role play. The younger children are making marks and others can write their names. The opportunities to use letters and letter sounds, when writing for a purpose, are insufficient.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Many children count to five and some beyond. Children are beginning to use some mathematical language in their play, for example, big and heavy. They enjoy using shape and recreate patterns through activities such as jigsaws and construction. Opportunities to use and record numbers are limited. There are insufficient opportunities for children to develop mathematical ideas and solve simple problems through everyday, practical activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are curious and interested in finding out about living things. Some children use the computer with confidence. Children select resources with confidence to enable them to design, build and join a wide selection of materials. They talk freely about things that have happened to them. Children are developing an understanding of their own culture and the beliefs of others. Opportunities to find out how and why things work and to investigate the local area in which they live are limited.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children handle and use tools and malleable materials with increasing skill to develop good hand and eye coordination. Most children move safely and negotiate space well around the indoor area . They are developing an awareness of personal care, especially hygiene. Children's opportunities to use movement in a variety of ways are limited. Opportunities to develop their physical skills using large and small equipment are insufficient.	

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children explore a good range of media and materials in two and three dimensions. They respond well to experiences, using all their senses and freely communicate their ideas. Children enjoy songs and rhymes and join in enthusiastically with home-made props. They enjoy listening to music and exploring musical instruments. Children use their imagination well, develop their ideas and link these to real and imagined experiences, especially in the role play areas.	

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

- improve the deployment of staff to maximise the learning opportunities for all children
- continue to develop the planning of activities to ensure all staff focus on the learning intentions, in order to ensure the progression and challenge of all children
- increase the opportunities for children to find out how and why things work and to investigate the features of the local area in which they live and develop their physical skills using small and large equipment
- extend the opportunities for more able children to explore letters and letter sounds when writing for a purpose, use and record numbers, develop mathematical ideas and solve everyday practical problems.

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.