



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315941

DfES Number: 511725

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	23/09/2003
Inspector Name	Christine Fraser Turner

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Heaton Playschool
Setting Address	Guide Headquarters Opp Markland Hill School Heaton Bolton BL1 6EJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Nila Faulds
------	-----------------

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

Heaton Playschool is located in the Guide Headquarters building opposite Markland Hill School. The building is situated in the Heaton area of Bolton, with car parking available either on the road or the car park adjoining the Scout Hut. The playschool has been established since 1989 and in the present building since 1996 and has sole use of the building when in session.

The playschool is registered for 26 children aged two to under five years. There are currently 24 children on role from aged two to three years and this includes 15 funded three year old children

The staff group consists of the owner/manager and a further five playschool staff. Two staff have a level three child care qualification and another has level two child care qualification. Of the two additional staff one is working towards a level two child care qualification. The setting receives support from teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development Childcare Partnership. The staff at playschool are working towards accreditation with the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Heaton Playschool provides satisfactory care for children. The playschool is generally well organised but there is need for some improvements to the deployment of staff including management arrangements. Documentation is generally good with the need for minor improvements. Sufficient equipment and resources are available for children to access a wide range of activities provided by staff. Resources to promote positive images for equality of opportunity are available through books, dressing up clothes and figures. Good strategies are in place to ensure toys are cleaned on a regular basis but staff need to review the safe use of some equipment.

Staff know the children well and children are happy in their play. Staff have a generally good understanding of health and safety but need to review some areas. Staff use space well and children have access to outdoor play on a daily basis,

weather permitting. Staff generally promote good hygiene for children and have a good awareness on first aid and the action to take if a child becomes ill in their care. Staff meet individual children's dietary needs and ensure all staff are aware of individual requirements but need to review how children have access to additional drinks. A clear behaviour management policy is in place but is always implemented by all staff. Staff are clear on their role in child protection.

Parents are issued with an information booklet on the playschool. Staff ask parents for comprehensive written information on their child which enables them to meet individual children's needs. News letters are used to ensure parents are informed of current information on the playschool.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider was asked to undertake some improvements to records. She has completed all the actions satisfactorily.

The following records are in place. An incident record that is shared with parents, confirmation that staff are suitable to work with children and a record of volunteers is maintained.

What is being done well?

- Good partnership with parents where staff ask parents for information in addition to required information to ensure greater knowledge of each child.
- Staff know the children well using the key worker system.
- Staff provide an environment where children are able to move freely within the playroom.
- The well planned routine helps children to feel secure.

What needs to be improved?

- the current manager/deputy cover arrangements;
- the system for children to have drinking water freely available at all times;
- the safety of the climbing equipment to ensure children have safe surfaces to land/fall;
- the hot water system in the children's bathroom;
- the storage of the cleaning material in the kitchen;
- the information in the register;
- the deployment of staff working directly with children;
- the security of children's development records.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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	review the current management arrangements.
2	review how staff are deployed to work directly with the children so that minimum ratios are maintained at all times.
2	ensure the information in the register contains the arrival and departure times of staff and children.
5	ensure that children can use the climbing equipment safely.
6	ensure the hot water in the children's bathroom can be used safely.
6	provide safe storage of the cleaning materials.
8	ensure that children have access to drinking water at all times.
14	provide secure storage for children's development records.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Heaton Playschool offers good quality nursery education. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. They make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development and physical development.

Teaching is generally good. Staff plan for children using the six areas of learning. Key workers use their observations to plan for the next steps for children's learning and use a tracking system to monitor that children have experiences in all areas of learning. The organisation of resources for role play limits the learning opportunities for children on some occasions. Children would benefit from more staff support in large group situations.

Leadership and management are generally good. Staff are clear on their role and all new staff have an induction programme. Ongoing staff development is undertaken by the manager using staff appraisal to identify individual training needs. Staff are committed to ongoing development and have undertaken relevant training through the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

The partnership with parents and carers is generally good. A booklet informs them about the provision. Play plans are readily available for parents and a notice board and news letters keep them informed of current information. Parents complete a child profile on their child which gives a picture of what children can do and need further support.

What is being done well?

- Staff have undertaken training to improve knowledge of the foundation stage.
- Good relationships between staff and children.
- Staff appraisals are used to identify ongoing staff development.
- Clear plans are in place linked to the six areas of learning.

What needs to be improved?

- the organisation of resources for role play;
- the opportunities for children to have more free craft activities;
- the gathering of information from parents on what they already know about their child's development.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The playschool has made very good progress since the last inspection. Clear action plans are in place and have been implemented. Children are now grouped to ensure all children take an equal part in activities and a tracking system monitors children's involvement in each area. Children are encouraged to record their observations in knowledge and understanding of the world in the form of drawing where appropriate. Children's assessments are linked in to the stepping stones and staff record their observations and identify next steps for learning for individual children.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making very good progress in personal, social and emotional development. Children are encouraged to be independent and have good relationships with each other. They are confident to express their needs. Children are able to work as part of a group and take turns. They concentrate well and complete tasks.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are making generally good progress in communication, language and literacy. Staff plan opportunities for children to practice writing skills through role play situations. Children are confident to speak to each other and in large groups at discussion time. Children have opportunities to handle books and enjoy listening to stories but would benefit from additional staff support in large group situations.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's progress in mathematical development is generally good. Staff plan a range of activities to introduce children to mathematical language. Children learn about number through songs and rhymes. Children learn about shape through practical experiences and discussion. There were missed opportunities for counting as part of the daily routine.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are making generally good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world. Staff plan opportunities for children learn about other cultures as well as their own. Staff plan links with the local community and arrange visits from a range of 'people who help us'. Children are introduced to using the computer and gain confidence in its use. Children are introduced to change through experiments e.g. when children made jelly.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are making very good progress in physical development. Children are confident to use a wide range of equipment that develops all areas of physical development. Staff plan opportunities for children to engage in activities that require hand eye co ordination. Children are able to use tools with increasing confidence. Children are aware of their own personal needs and manage them well.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children are making generally good progress in creative development. Children enjoy joining in with dancing and ring games. They use their imagination in role play but the organisation of resources sometimes limits children's learning. Children have many opportunities to explore a variety of media but opportunities for children to be creative are limited as many craft activities are adult lead.	
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

- review how resources are organised for role play to ensure they support children's learning.
- provide more opportunities for children to have free craft activities.
- review how information from parents can be linked to children's development records to take account of what children already know.

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.