



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113682

DfES Number: 516998

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	03/03/2004
Inspector Name	Maureen Croxford

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Roundabout Playgroup
Setting Address	Wick Church Hall Wick Street Littlehampton West Sussex BN17

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Lynda Vallance
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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

Roundabout Playgroup is a sessional group which opened in 1996 in the present premises and originally in 1968. It operates from a hall in Wick Church Hall, Wick near Littlehampton, West Sussex. The playgroup serves the mainly residential local area.

There are currently thirty-six children from two to five years on roll. This includes seventeen funded three-year-olds and seven funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports no children with special needs, and one child who speaks English as an additional language. The group opens five mornings a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.00am until 12.00.

There are eight part time staff working with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

The setting receives support from a mentor from 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?

Roundabout Playgroup helps children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The playgroup provides a warm, welcoming and caring environment. Teaching is generally good. Staff make regular assessments which are clear and informative, but these are not always used effectively to identify children's progress.

Staff have a sound understanding of the Foundation Stage and use this to plan activities but do not always acknowledge in the plans the differing levels of abilities. Staff ensure that children have opportunities to be engaged in activities that are planned and also encouraging children to initiate their own ideas. Staff form very good relationships with the children and have a high expectation of behaviour, although children can occasionally be restless when asked to sit quietly for some time.

Leadership and management is generally good. The staff team work closely together. Responsibility for planning, teaching, observing and assessing is shared and overseen by the provider. Staff attend in-house and external training.

The partnership with parents is generally good. Parents are well informed of their child's progress through informal feedback and open mornings. Staff encourage parents to be involved in their child's learning. Parents receive regular information regarding planned activities through regular newsletters, notice boards, displays of children's art work and discussion.

What is being done well?

- Staff interact well with children and work well as a team. They share responsibilities and show a committed approach to managing children's behaviour.
- Partnership with parents is seen as a priority. They are welcome in the provision and are given clear information about the group.

What needs to be improved?

- the development of the evaluation and the children's developmental records, to be used for future planning to ensure the children's individual needs are met;
- the improvement of plans to further develop the children's awareness of cultures, other than their own.

What has improved since the last inspection?
<p>Some progress has been made since the last inspection. Regular staff meetings are now held more frequently to assess the progress of the children. Further development of the children's developmental profiles is required to ensure that the needs of all children are met. The group recently started to use the West Sussex Developmental records for children and are working with the EYCDP mentor regarding their use.</p> <p>Parents are now issued with some basic information about the Foundation Stage of learning and the stepping stones and invited to speak to staff or attend open mornings.</p>

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children are happy, confident and well motivated to learn. They show concern for each other, share toys and resources and take turns. They form good relationships with their peers and adults. They enjoy the wide range of activities offered and are developing their own personal independence well. Children generally behave well but on occasions, when asked to sit for long periods, some have difficulty in sitting quietly. Staff value the children's work and help them to develop their self-esteem.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children speak confidently to both adults and other children. They enjoy singing and are familiar with action songs in regular planned activities. Some children recognise their own names and are beginning to write these correctly with well formed letters. They are encouraged to notice sounds of letters and rhymes in stories and poems.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children receive many opportunities to count during the session and numbers are displayed around the hall. A wide range of activities are provided for children to practice the naming of shapes and numbers. Staff encourage children to solve simple problems during practical activities although a few opportunities are missed to develop simple ideas of addition and subtraction. Children are beginning to use mathematical language.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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An interesting range of topics allow children to explore and investigate aspects of both the man made and the natural world. They explore differences of change through real experiences such as growing plants and watching tadpoles develop. Children develop a sense of time through photographs and discussion. Children use their own ideas to make things by building and joining. They are developing an awareness of their own cultures although this should be expanded to include other beliefs.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children move with confidence, showing a good awareness of space in both the indoor and outdoor areas. They are provided with opportunities to show awareness of themselves and others. Staff provide children with many activities to develop both the large muscle movement and fine motor skills. They learn about health and bodily awareness through topics and planned activities.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children creative development is well supported by the stimulating range of resources and activities provided. They enjoy regular access to sand and water play. Children clearly enjoy role-play opportunities and they are able to express themselves through imaginative play using a wide range of small world toys and dressing up clothes.	
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

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- ensure the children's developmental records are evaluated and are used in future planning to meet the children's individual needs.
- develop plans to provide opportunities for the children to gain further understanding and awareness of cultures, other than their own.

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.