



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 148682

DfES Number: 512988

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 07/07/2003
Inspector Name Maggie Ferris

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Paul's Playgroup
Setting Address Emmbrook Infant School
Emmbrook Road
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG41 1JR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name ST PAUL'S PLAYGROUP

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name ST PAUL'S PLAYGROUP
Address Emmbrook Infant School
Emmbrook Road
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG41 1JR

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

St Paul's Playgroup opened in 1982. It operates from a classroom within Emmbrook Infant School, on the outskirts of the town of Wokingham. The playgroup serves the local area.

The playgroup is registered to care for 23 children aged three to five years. There are currently 44 children on roll. This includes 10 funded three year olds and 18 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports two children with special educational needs and one child who speaks English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 to 11:45 and 12:45 to 15:15. They also open during August, when they run from 09:00 to 13:00.

There are six members of staff working with the children, two of these work full time. Four staff members have early years qualifications and all staff regularly attend relevant training offered by the Local Authority. Four staff members hold a relevant First Aid Certificate. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

St Paul's Playgroup provides good care for children. The staff work well together as a team. Regular meetings ensure that all staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They are all fully involved in planning an interesting range of activities for the children. Staff are committed to ongoing training and the improvement of the playgroup provision. They are skilful in managing children's behaviour, they have high expectations of the children. All of the required documentation is in place although staff need to review some record keeping to ensure there is sufficient detail and that events are accurately recorded.

Staff ensure children are safe both inside and outdoors. There is a large range of

good quality toys and equipment which is regularly cleaned and checked. Toys and equipment are easily accessible to all children.

Children with special educational needs and English as an additional language are well supported by the staff, who work with parents and outside agencies to ensure their needs are met. All children are included and valued. The children are confident, polite and well behaved.

The staff work well in partnership with parents. Parents are well informed about the nursery, there are regular opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress with staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group were asked to:

review the organisation of snack time;

make some policy amendments with reference to: curriculum guidance, no smoking, Ofsted contact no;

record the length of time taken for fire drills;

develop risk assessment procedures;

review access for disabled.

The group have addressed all of the issues;

the snack time is cafeteria style and appears to work well;

all policies have been reviewed, a risk assessment procedure is in place and being followed, fire drills are accurately recorded including length of time and assessment;

visitors with disabilities would be able to access the group.

What is being done well?

- All staff have an on going commitment to training. There is a strong and stable staff team who work together well to plan and provide a good variety of fun and interesting activities for the children (std 2 & 3)
- Adults know the children well, they spend time talking to them. Children are well supported in activities including activities which the children initiate themselves. (std 3)
- The playgroup is welcoming to children and their families. Space is used well with different areas for different activities. There is access to outside play. There is a large range of good quality toys and equipment which are easily accessible to all children. (std 4 & 5)

- Staff are vigilant about childrens safety both inside and whilst out in the school grounds. Adults follow hygienic routines and encourage children to follow these. (std 6 & 7)
- The needs of all children are being met, including those with special educational needs, English as an additional language, special dietary needs, less and more able children. All children are valued and included. (std 8 & 9)
- The staff have high expectations of childrens behaviour. The children are polite and well behaved. They respond well to the staff's praise and encouragement. (std11)
- Relationships with parents are good. They receive regular information and are able to talk to staff about their child's progress at any time. (std 12)

What needs to be improved?

- record keeping to ensure the time is accurately recorded when children arrive or leave significantly late or early
- record keeping to ensure significant issues are recorded and shared with parents.

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 a record is maintained of children who arrive or leave significantly late or early . |
| 11 | keep a sufficiently detailed record of significant issues and share this with parents |

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

How effective is the nursery education?

St Paul's Playgroup offers good quality provision which helps children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

The provision for personal, social and emotional development, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development and creative development are very good.

Teaching is generally good with some very good aspects. Staff's sound knowledge of the early learning goals enables them to provide a range of interesting and appropriate activities to help children learn. Good assessment is in place which is used to check and record children's progress, this is also used to inform future planning. Staff are effective in their use of explanation and questioning to encourage children's thinking. Opportunities are missed for children to write, count and calculate in everyday situations. Children behave well in response to the high expectations and support from staff. Effective systems are in place to give good support to children with special educational needs and English as an additional language.

Leadership and management is very good. There is a good staff team in place who provide a well planned stimulating environment where children learn through a variety of activities. The manager provides good opportunities for staff training and development. Staff are committed to the improvement and quality of care and education.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff have good relationships with parents and carers. Parents are well informed about the activities and routines of the playgroup. Information is shared on a daily basis and staff regularly discuss children's progress both formally and informally.

What is being done well?

- Children are confident and well behaved. They develop good and caring relationships with both the adults and other children. They are able to work independently but readily approach staff for help if required.
- The wide range of activities and resources ensure children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.
- Staff's use of effective explanation and questioning encourages children's thinking.
- Leadership and management is very good. Staff work well as a team and are committed to the improvement of nursery education.

What needs to be improved?

- provide more opportunities for children to practice their writing skills in a variety of everyday practical situations.
- provide more opportunities to challenge children to explore number and simple calculation through everyday activities.
- Point for consideration:
- review the labelling of boxes and resources - these should be consistent.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The playgroup has made generally good progress since the last inspection and all issues raised have been addressed. Boxes have been purchased for the storage of resources and labelled for easy identification however, the use of upper and lower case letters on the labels is not consistent. During planned mathematical activities children are given the opportunity to use real objects rather than worksheets.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in personal, social and emotional development is very good. Relationships in the playgroup are very good and children show consideration and support for others. Children are very well behaved and confident, they share toys and resources readily taking turns. Children are able to work independently and show high levels of concentration.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's progress in communication, language and literacy is generally good. Children communicate and listen well to adults and each other. Children are beginning to recognise letters and name sounds, they are learning that print carries meaning and is read from left to right. Children lack opportunities to practice emergent writing skills in everyday play situations however, planned activities to promote writing skills were appropriate.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children's progress in mathematical development is generally good. Activities extend children's understanding of measure, shape and size. Children confidently use numbers, many count to ten and most recognise numerals up to nine. Some opportunities are missed to extend practical counting and simple calculation in everyday play situations. Children are beginning to use simple mathematical language during activities.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. Staff ensure children have the opportunity to explore and investigate objects and materials and provide simple scientific experiments. Children talk about events in their own lives and have a growing awareness of other cultures and traditions. Children are very confident in their use of technology, adults support them effectively.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's progress in physical development is very good. Children move with confidence and show good co-ordination. They show a good awareness of space, themselves and others particularly during outdoor play. They have regular access to large play equipment and have opportunities to use a range of tools in everyday play situations. Children are developing an awareness of changes to their bodies and their needs after exercise.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Judgement: | Very Good |
|------------|-----------|

Children's progress in creative development is very good. Children respond enthusiastically during activities. Children are given regular opportunities to work creatively with a good range of materials. They have opportunities to respond to what they see, hear, taste, smell and touch. Imagination is expressed in a variety of role play situations.

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

- increase opportunities for children to practice their writing skills in a variety of everyday practical situations.
- increase challenges for children to explore number and simple calculation through everyday activities.

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.