



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 206707

DfES Number: 537480

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	03/02/2004
Inspector Name	Susan Riley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Ambergate & District Playgroup
Setting Address	The Methodist School Rooms Devenshire Street Ambergate Derby DE56 3GJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Ambergate & District Playgroup 1036793
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Ambergate & District Playgroup
Address	The Methodist School Rooms Devonshire Street, Ambergate Belper Derbyshire DE56 2GJ

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

Ambergate Playgroup opened in 1968. The playgroup is run by a committee of parents and operates from the Methodist Church rooms in the village of Ambergate in Derbyshire. The playgroup serves the local and wider communities.

There are currently 20 children from 2 ½ years to 4 ½ years on roll. This includes 13 funded 3-year-olds and 3 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions each week. The setting is able to support children with special educational needs and for whom English is an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9:30 until 12:00.

Three part-time staff work with the children. All staff hold an early years qualification to NVQ level two or three. The setting receives support from the Derbyshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Ambergate and District Playgroup provide satisfactory quality care for children.

The committee have procedures in place for appointing and checking staff. The staff organise the space and activities well, and deploy themselves effectively around the setting to meet children's individual needs. There are sufficient toys and furniture in place and children can easily access them. Most policies and procedures are in place, however not all have been updated in line with current guidance. Most records are in place.

Staff demonstrate an awareness of safety issues around the setting. Premises are kept secure, and they have an effective system in place for the safe arrival and collection of children. Staff actively promote health and hygiene practices within the setting and with children. The staff have attended child protection training and are aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and of the procedures to follow.

The staff provide a good stimulating range and balance of activities. They interact well with the children and encourage their play. All children are included and valued. Children are well-behaved due to the staff offering appropriate praise and encouragement.

There are good relationships in place between staff and parents. The staff are friendly and welcoming to parents. Parents form the management committee and there is a daily rota help system in place. Parents state they are happy with the care provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the playgroup agreed to a number of actions. Systems are now in place to ensure that all staff are suitably checked. This ensures that children are safe. Staff files have been collated, with all staff's relevant details available. This ensures that the staff and committee have all the information to hand. An operational plan has been devised to ensure the smooth running of the group. The outside play area has been made safe; this ensures children are safe when playing outside. They have devised procedures for emergency evacuation of the building, and these are displayed to ensure all staff and parents are aware. Regular practises now take place. A staff member has taken on the responsibility to regularly check the first aid box and replenish, this ensures that items are in place as required. Staff have attended a food hygiene course, to raise their awareness of food safety and hygiene. The group agreed to ensure that parental permission was requested to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, this has not been completed, so is carried forward from this inspection.

What is being done well?

- Children have access to a good range and balance of activities and experiences, to enhance their all-round development. They are given opportunities to make their own decisions in play and companions. Children interact well with their peers and adults.
- Staff act as good role models, they value children, and treat them with respect to help promote good behaviour. They encourage sharing and the use of manners.
- The relationship with the parents is well fostered. Parents are actively involved in the day to day running of the group, they regularly help on the daily rota, help with the fundraising, and are members of the management committee.

What needs to be improved?

- procedures, so staff are aware of what to do in the event of a child being lost or uncollected,
- documentation, with reference to parental written consent for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment,

- policies and procedures, with reference to the behaviour policy, complaints policy, and child protection policy, all not being in line with current guidance.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
6	Devise and implement procedures for a lost or uncollected child.	27/02/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
14	Ensure that policies and procedures are revised and updated with current guidance for the efficient and safe management of the provision, and to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained.
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Ambergate and District Playgroup is welcoming and children are making generally good progress overall towards the early learning goals.

The quality of teaching has significant weaknesses. Staff have a sound knowledge of the early learning goals. They do plan activities for the whole early years curriculum, however at times they do not effectively challenge the more able children to enable them to reach their full potential. The information gained from the observations and assessments of children to establish what they can do and know, is not currently being used to aid the planning of the activities, but this is slowly being addressed by the staff. Additional resources are not being used effectively for children to self-select.

Leadership and management of the groups is generally good. Effective systems are in place to monitor and evaluate the practice and provision. The staff work well as a team and are good role models for the children. Staff and committee are very committed to the improvement of the care and education for all children.

The partnership with parents and carers is generally good. Parents are provided with information about the group. They feel they are well informed about their children's progress. Parents are very happy with the provision and feel that the staff are very approachable. The parents are very involved with the management and running of the group.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is good. They are social, confident and have good relationships with their peers and adults. Children's behaviour is good, they help in the tidying away of the activities as part of their daily routine.
- Children's language skills are good, they show awareness of the listener, they are confident to speak in front of a large group, and they talk to adults competently.
- There is good emphasis placed on outdoor play. Children dress appropriately and enjoy their play and learning outside in all weathers.
- Staff interact well with the children, praising and encouraging them appropriately. They set and maintain reasonable and consistent limits so that children can play and work, feeling safe and secure.

What needs to be improved?

- organisation of resources so that children can easily access and select

equipment to extend their learning and develop their own ideas,

- the use of observation and assessment to inform future planning and to ensure the children's individual learning needs are met,
- the book area to encourage children's use and enjoyment of books.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection in 2000 generally good progress has been made. The staff have reviewed how they group children, the children now work in mixed ability groups and the staff offer help and support as needed. Staff have devised an assessment system, which clearly shows the children's progress in each area of learning, which is updated regularly. Staff have attended training around special educational needs and a policy has been devised. Systems are in place for the identification of children's individual needs and difficulties. Children now have regular planned opportunities to explore and examine the living, natural and man-made items. They are able to make their own observations and record them in different ways, they have recently been monitoring the daily weather and recording their findings. Children now have daily opportunities for free creativity and the staff display the children's art work around the setting.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's behaviour is good, they are learning to take turns and share, and manners are encouraged. They are confident as they enter the setting, and settle well at their chosen activities. Children are happy within the environment and share good relationships with their peers and adults. Older children show attention to task and persistence in completing a task when working independently. Children are developing an awareness of their own culture and beliefs and those of others.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children use language well to interact, and talk with peers and adults. In the group discussion time, children are confident to talk; they speak clearly and demonstrate good listening skills. Children are starting to link sound to letters. Some children are starting to write and recognise their own name. However, there are few opportunities for children to write for different purposes at activities. The book area is not very well placed, not inviting and not much used by the children.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children count freely within their play, however there were missed opportunities for counting within a large group. Children's understanding of number is developing well, they are able to match a number to objects. Their perception of addition and subtraction is developing through the focused learning and practical activities. They are learning well about shape and position, and they use appropriate language to describe and identify.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children show curiosity, they observe and manipulate objects, and are able to talk through their findings. They are developing a sense of time, as they talk about events in their lives, what they did yesterday and what they will do tomorrow. Children have good opportunities to tend and care for living things, they have a garden area in which they plant seasonal bulbs and flowers, and they daily care for the birds. Their designing and making skills are developing well.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children move confidently and in safety around the setting. They demonstrate an awareness of space, both of themselves and of others. Children within a large group are able to form a large circle. They have daily opportunities for active play both inside and outside. Children use a wide range of the small and large equipment, they handle the tools and objects well. They explore the malleable materials with a purpose and increasing control.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
Children act out different scenarios and enjoy the variety of role-play. They play well using their imagination. Children sings songs from memory and match their movements to the songs. They explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in two and three dimensions through the daily practical activities.	
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

- continue with the further development of the assessments records to effectively aid the planning for future activities,
- improve the organisation of resources to ensure that children are able to self-select during freely chosen activities,
- develop the book area to encourage children's use and enjoyment of books.

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.