



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 306418

DfES Number: 518282

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/07/2003
Inspector Name	Michele Anne Villiers

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Ladybird Pre-school Playgroup
Setting Address	99 Woodchurch Road Birkenhead Merseyside CH42 9LJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Ladybird Playgroup Committee c/o Mrs R O'Loughlin
------	--

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Ladybird Playgroup Committee c/o Mrs R O'Loughlin
Address	31 Woodchurch Road Birkenhead Merseyside CH42 9LG

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

Ladybird Pre-school has been operating for over 16 years. It is committee run, the registered person being Mrs Rita O'Loughlin.

Ladybird is open Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.05am and 11.35 am and 12.35pm and 15.05 pm. It is registered to care for 20 children between the ages of two and a half and five years.

The pre-school is situated in a self-contained unit within Woodchurch Road Primary School. There is a playroom, which has sectioned off toilet and kitchen facilities, as well as a secure outside play area. The room is completely child orientated with colourful displays and a wide range of stimulating activities.

The children attend either morning or afternoon sessions. Ladybird receives nursery grant funding for some four-year-old children and those eligible three year olds. The children are working towards the Foundation Stage of education by following a planned curriculum.

How good is the Day Care?

Ladybird Pre-School Playgroup provides good quality care for children.

Staff are well qualified and experienced in childcare. The person in charge has a very positive approach to improving the care and welfare of the children and is actively involved with the local Early Years Development Partnership. All staff are encouraged to access on-going training, ensuring a consistent approach to their work. The premises are secure and safe and suitably equipped, with a recently re-furnished outside play area. The display of children's artwork and the friendly disposition of staff provide a welcoming environment.

Health and safety is promoted within the nursery. Fire drills are practised and recorded and risk assessment undertaken daily, with more formal recordings annually. Staff encourage the children's awareness of personal hygiene and

nutritional awareness, with the provision of healthy snacks and the involvement with the local Dental Service and Nutritional Health in Pre-Schools.

All children are recognised as individual and staff have a positive approach to special needs. The nursery are proactive in ensuring children receive appropriate support and inclusion which promotes their welfare and development.

A broad range of activities are provided and the staff's enthusiastic approach motivates the children's learning. Toys and equipment are suitable for the age range of the children and regularly updated. Some equipment reflects equal opportunities and different cultures; this needs to be built upon so children have a good awareness of the diverse culture they live in. Children's behaviour is generally managed well, although consistency amongst the staff needs to be developed to ensure strategies are agreed and appropriate.

The playgroup has a good relationship with parents. Information is shared daily plus more formal meetings arranged with key workers. The playgroup regularly sends out questionnaires to monitor their practice.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made good improvement since the last inspection.

At the last inspection the playgroup agreed to: ensure that the Child Protection procedure complied with the local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures, ensure that any persons of whom there is no written evidence of being vetted submit relevant clearance forms, devise a safe procedure for outings, develop an operational plan and devise a medication policy. The C.P. policy has been reviewed and revised in accordance with Wirral Child Protection. Four staff have been re-checked with the CRB and cleared. The procedure for outings has been revised. An operational plan has been developed and the medication policy has been devised.

What is being done well?

- The manager and staff's enthusiasm and commitment to their work ensures the children are being well supported. A good range of planned, stimulating activities are provided, suitable for the age range. The management has a commitment to improving the care and education for all children and works hard to develop an effective staff team (Standard 2 & 3).
- Children are learning about health and hygiene through the playgroup's involvement with Nutritional Health in Pre-School and the provision of healthy snacks (Standard 7 & 8).
- The playgroup are forming good relationships with parents and other agencies to ensure that the children's individual needs are met and the inclusion of all children (Standard 10 & 12).

What needs to be improved?

- the induction programme for new staff to include equal opportunities and behaviour management of children (Standard 2).
- more regular access to toys and equipment reflecting different cultures must be provided for the children (Standard 5).
- the consistency in staff's management of the children's behaviour to be developed and monitored (Standard 11).

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	Include equal opportunities and behaviour management of children in the induction programme for new staff, students and volunteers.
11	To ensure consistency amongst staff with regard to developing suitable strategies to manage the children's behaviour.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Children in Ladybird Pre-School Playgroup are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning. They are making very good progress in personal, social and emotional development, communication, language and literacy and knowledge and understanding of the world.

Teaching is generally good with some very good aspects. Staff are enthusiastic in their approach and provide well-planned activities to promote the children's learning and development. Valuable opportunities are provided for children to prepare themselves for starting school. Clear directions are given and staff have appropriate expectations of all children, taking into account age, individual abilities and development. Children with additional needs are fully included in activities and staff have close links with the LEA and Support Services. Children's behaviour, however, is not always consistently managed and strategies need to be developed to ensure children are attentive and respond to simple instructions.

Leadership and management is good. The manager is committed to improving the care and education for all children. Staff are encouraged to access training and all supervisors are suitably qualified and experienced. Staff have a good knowledge of the foundation stage and the effectiveness of recording and monitoring.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Parents are well informed about the nursery curriculum, events and children's progress through daily chats, newsletters and key-worker meetings. Parental involvement is encouraged and regular questionnaires enable staff to monitor any concerns or parental recommendations.

What is being done well?

- Children's communication, language and literacy development is very good. Children recognise their own name and practise writing and marking paper, learning that print carries meaning. They confidently speak in a familiar group and interact with others.
- Children are developing very good progress in knowledge and understanding of the world. They learn about living things through planned activities and investigating wildlife.
- Through the use of a computer the children are able to complete simple programmes unaided by staff.
- Staff provide valuable opportunities for children to prepare for starting school, fostering their sense of place and building on their self-confidence.

What needs to be improved?

- children's development in mathematical ideas and problem solving during practical activities to be maximised.
- staff's strategies on managing children's behaviour to be assessed and consistency developed.
- children's own creative development with art and craft and display work to be encouraged.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The playgroup is making good progress since the last inspection.

Children's attainment and progress is recorded and related to the six areas of learning.

Staff are continuing to draw up strategies to manage the children's behaviour, including small group work and a key-worker system.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children make good progress in personal, social and emotional development. They are learning to form good relationships with adults, and other children, and speak confidently in a familiar group. However, behaviour management is not always consistent, resulting in children sometimes not listening well during group sessions or responding co-operatively to simple instructions.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

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

Children make very good progress in communication, language and literacy. Children speak clearly and interact well with adults. Children learn that print carries meaning through books and well-labelled wall displays. Children recognise their own name and practise writing through planned activities and during practical play. Staff use questioning to encourage children to use language for thinking.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children's progress in mathematical development is generally good. Children confidently count to ten or more and learn to recognise numerals. Staff use mathematical language such as over, under, big, small, medium during practical activities. A computer game helped one four year old to compare size and match shapes. There were missed opportunities for children to develop mathematical ideas during practical situations, such as lining up and at snack time.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

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

Children's progress in knowledge and understanding of the world is very good. Children have valuable opportunities to learn about living things through topics on insects, animals and the life cycle of the butterfly. Children are becoming competent in the use of a computer and are able to complete simple programmes unaided by staff. Through local visits and the celebration of different festivals, children are learning about their environment, culture and those of others.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
------------	----------------

Children make generally good progress in physical development. Children develop good manipulative skills and hand-eye co-ordination through computer games, the use of a variety of tools and play with malleable material. Staff promote the children's awareness of keeping healthy by providing nutritional snacks and supporting dental care. Planned activities support children's developing co-ordination with music and movement and large climbing equipment.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Generally Good
<p>Children make generally good progress in creative development. Children explore and choose from a range of media such as paint, sand, malleable materials and collage. Children sing songs from memory and explore sound through music. A well equipped role play area fosters the children's imagination. However, there were missed opportunities for children to express their creativity through art work by producing their own images and templates for some wall displays.</p>	

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

- Staff to maximise everyday opportunities for children to develop mathematical ideas and solve problems during practical activities.
- To continue to develop strategies to ensure children's behaviour is well managed.

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.