



**Office for Standards
in Education**

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY269502

DfES Number: 518154

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	10/02/2005
Inspector Name	Fiona Stephenson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Church Hall Playgroup
Setting Address	Church Street Stoney Stanton Leicester Leicestershire LE9 4DA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Deborah Luckett
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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

The Church Hall Playgroup opened in 1972, and as a consequence of a change of management, was re-registered in 2003. It operates from a pre-fabricated structure, which contains a playroom, two toilets and a kitchenette area, and is situated in the village of Stoney Stanton in Leicestershire. A maximum of 24 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. It is open each weekday during term time from 08:30 to 11:30, and 12:30 to 14:45 on Wednesdays. It is also open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 to 14:45 for pre-school sessions. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 40 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 32 receive funding for nursery education. Children mainly come from Stoney Stanton and the surrounding area.

The playgroup has four staff. Three of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

The Church Hall Playgroup provides good quality care for children. There are good adult:child ratios, and space and resources are used effectively to meet children's needs. The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose, as well as being welcoming to children and their parents/carers. Furniture, equipment and toys are in excellent condition and help to create an accessible and stimulating environment. Very good attention is paid to documentation, and the records about individual children are shared with the child's parent.

Good safety systems are in place for both indoor and outdoor activities. Good health is promoted by good hygiene systems, nutritious snacks, and a staff team well trained in paediatric first aid. Staff have a good understanding of child protection issues, and the child protection policy is comprehensive.

Staff have a very caring and warm approach to the children in their care, and positive behavioural strategies such as 'the pathway to kindness' emphasise children's good behaviour. Activities and play opportunities are planned well to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities. All children are seen as individuals and their needs met accordingly. There are good resources in the setting that promote anti-discriminatory practice. Although there are currently no children with special educational needs, staff have a good understanding of how to support children with such needs.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff work well with parents in talking about the activities their child has been engaged in. The prospectus gives parents comprehensive information about the playgroup and policies there-in and key workers ensure parents are given regular information about their child's care and learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting agreed to ensure that aspects of the outdoor area and indoor environment were made safe. These have been actioned and both the indoor and outdoor area is now safe for children's play. A comprehensive risk assessment system is also now in place, ensuring safety is promoted on an ongoing basis. The setting agreed to ensure that all the requirements of the Environmental Health, Planning, and Building Control departments of Leicestershire County Council were adhered to. These have also been actioned resulting in all electrical items being re-tested to ensure safety for children.

What is being done well?

- Parents are provided with good verbal and written information about the playgroup, and their child's care and learning whilst attending the group.
- Staff demonstrate a warm and caring approach to children in their care, and have a very good understanding of the individual needs of each child.
- Excellent resources in terms of toys, equipment and furniture, as well as well-planned activities provide children with an exciting and stimulating environment where they are happy and settled.
- Well thought through policies and procedures contribute to a safe environment where the welfare and care of children is well promoted.
- The setting provides children with a wide range of healthy snacks and drinks.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for older children to use climbing equipment more appropriate to their age and abilities.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out

from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
5	Provide older children with more regular access to climbing equipment more appropriate to their ages and abilities.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

Church Hall Playgroup provides good-quality nursery education overall which enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals. Provision for all six areas of learning is very well planned, and children make very good progress in each one.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a very good knowledge of the curriculum and use it effectively during both adult-led and child-initiated activities. Detailed planning ensures all cluster areas are covered, and that they are re-visited frequently to secure children's learning. The key worker system works very well and staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of children's progress through the 'stepping stones'. Although this knowledge is not always reflected in the written evaluations of daily activities. Staff manage children's behaviour very well, and this is supported by excellent use of time and resources to engage children in activities that interest and inspire them.

The leadership and management is very good. The new manager of the setting has made significant changes to the playgroup in terms of staffing, and in planning and evaluating activities for children. These have contributed to a positive and stimulating environment for children's care and learning. She is very well supported by a staff group who work well as a team, and who share her commitment to provide high standards of care and education to children. Good training and development opportunities are provided to the staff team.

The partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with very good-quality information about the playgroup and its provision through a well considered written prospectus. They are kept well informed about the curriculum and about their child's achievements and progress through the 'stepping stones' with access to curriculum plans, written reports, and key worker sessions. Parents are given good encouragement to support children's learning in the home environment.

What is being done well?

- The staff team work very effectively in supporting children as individual learners and as a group. Their clear understanding of children's progress through the stepping stones enables activities to be differentiated according to the individual child's abilities.
- The excellent balance between adult-led and child-initiated activities provides children with ample time and opportunities to develop their communication skills, creative and imaginative skills, design and construction skills, and physical skills.
- Very good staff support enables children to make excellent progress in their early reading and writing skills, as well as mathematical skills such as

counting, early calculation and numeral recognition.

What needs to be improved?

- written evaluations of some learning activities
- older children's opportunities to access climbing equipment more reflective of their age and abilities

What has improved since the last inspection?

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. The new leader was not aware of the key issues raised at the last inspection, however through her own evaluations of the strengths and weaknesses of the setting, has ensured that children now have very good opportunities to develop a sense of community and to understand the cultures and beliefs of others. She has supported the setting very well in ensuring that staff's knowledge of special educational needs has improved through having an identified special needs co-ordinator for the group, and through staff training to improve their knowledge of many special educational needs issues. The leader has made big improvements in supporting parental understanding of their child's achievements and progress.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children demonstrate excitement and motivation to learn, and persist with activities for extended periods of time such as building a Lego house. They talk freely about their home life, and are developing a very good awareness of the cultures and beliefs of others, for example Chinese New Year. They form excellent relationships with staff and their peers, and demonstrate a very good awareness of the behaviour codes in the playgroup. Children demonstrate very good levels of independence.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children are developing very good speaking and listening skills, and communicate very effectively with each other and staff during adult-led activities and child-initiated activities such as role-playing doctors. They thoroughly enjoy story-time, and also independently sit quietly with books in the book area. Older children are developing very good understanding of linking sounds and letters. Many children are forming recognisable letters, with some writing their own names.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children count very well, and have many opportunities to secure these skills. Numeral recognition is also very good, with numerals brought into activities where possible e.g. when children sing songs such as 'five jelly fish'. Practical activities re-enforce children's learning of early calculation such as adding one more, or taking two away, and children demonstrate very good understanding of such concepts. They have excellent shape recognition, and matching and sorting skills.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Very good curriculum planning as well as use of daily resources ensures that children investigate objects, materials and living things, using all senses as appropriate. They are developing very good designing and making skills, constructing with specific purposes in mind e.g. setting up their own road system for 'Happy Street'. They demonstrate an excellent sense of time, being aware of the days of the week and concepts such as yesterday, today and tomorrow.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children experiment very well with different ways of moving when playing imaginary roles, and when responding to music through movement such as being monsters or fairies. They have a very good sense of space, and negotiate and show respect for the personal space of others. Children are developing very good health and body awareness through personal hygiene practices, and through learning about the effects exercise has on the body. Children use one-handed tools very well.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children have many opportunities to make constructions, collages and paintings. They choose their own colours for their creations, and are aware of how to mix colours to make different colours e.g. mixing play-dough. They make excellent use of the resources around them to engage and develop their imaginations and self-expression. They thoroughly enjoy, and are building a repertoire of songs. Children are developing a very good knowledge of musical instruments and the sounds they make.	
Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.	

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very 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

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:
- improve the written evaluations of activities to ensure they always reflect the learning intention of the activity
- provide older children with opportunities to access climbing equipment more reflective of their age and abilities.

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.