



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 143022

DfES Number: 547689

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/05/2004  
Inspector Name Pauline Margaret Bailey

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Meare Moles Playgroup  
Setting Address Meare Village Primary School  
St Mary's Road, Meare  
Glastonbury  
Somerset  
BA6 9SP

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Meare Moles Playgroup 1022784

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Meare Moles Playgroup  
Address St. Marys Road  
Meare  
Glastonbury  
Somerset  
BA6 9SP

## 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

Meare Moles Playgroup has had sole use of its own building for the past two years which is situated in the grounds of the local school.

There are currently 25 children on roll - 9 of them are funded three year olds and 9 are funded four year olds. No children attending have English as an additional language or special educational needs. The majority of children attending the setting come from the surrounding area and will move on to the school when they reach the appropriate age.

Premises consist of a large playroom with kitchen and office area, toilets, including disabled facilities, and storage space. The preschool has an outside play area and is able to use the school playground and field. There are currently three members of staff who all have appropriate qualifications and experience. The group is managed by a committee of parents and receives input and advice from the local EYDCP.

### How good is the Day Care?

Meare Moles Playgroup provides good care for children. The playgroup is well organised with a detailed and effective operational plan. All staff are well qualified, attend ongoing training and offer good support for children. The room is well prepared before they arrive and bright with posters, pictures and samples of their work. Good quality furniture is in place and a range of stimulating resources provided. Most records, policies and procedures are in place, stored securely and available to parents.

Staff are vigilant about security and safety. They have a good awareness of health and hygiene procedures and practice. Children are provided with healthy nutritious snacks and drinks during the session and staff are aware of any possible allergies or dietary requirements. Key workers know children well and all staff have a good understanding of equal opportunities and child protection issues. The setting is confident that appropriate support is available for children with special needs. A member of staff has attended training and is the designated special educational

needs co-ordinator. Staff members have knowledge of child protection procedures and are familiar with the Code of Practice. The building has appropriate disabled facilities and access.

A broad range of resources and activities is offered at each session. Children are encouraged to make decisions about their play and display a good level of concentration and commitment. They are involved and interested and relate well to adults and each other. Staff are familiar with the behaviour management policy and are calm and firm in their dealings with children. Praise and encouragement is readily given throughout the session.

Parents have very good relationships with the playgroup and are able to discuss any issues with staff on a daily basis. They are invited to join the management committee and be involved in their child's learning.

### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Following the previous inspection the setting was required to develop records in the areas of fire fighting equipment, risk assessment, medication and significant incidents. Appropriate records are now in place and observed at the visit.

A designated staff member was to be identified to take the role of deputy, staff records were to be introduced and a plan of action prepared to detail how staff qualifications were to be met. Staff records are now in place, a deputy supervisor with appropriate qualifications and experience has been appointed and a training and development plan drawn up.

Information was to be acquired about Environmental Health/Food Safety Regulations and appropriate first aid training identified and completed by additional staff. A system of reviewing the policies was to be introduced. Staff have attended training in food hygiene and all now hold appropriate first aid qualifications. Policies are to be reviewed annually.

### **What is being done well?**

- The operational plan is detailed and well organised. The management committee have been active in ensuring all required policies and procedures are in place.
- The physical environment is well prepared when children and parents arrive. Staff ensure activities are well organised with appropriate resources and equipment for children to use.
- Staff are vigilant about safety and take positive steps to promote it, both indoors and outside.
- Staff have undertaken training in order to provide individual care for children with additional needs.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the induction procedures for new staff/volunteers

**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	develop written induction procedures for new staff/volunteers

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Meare Moles Playgroup is delivering very good provision which helps children make effective progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is very good. All staff display a good awareness of the early learning goals and are involved, interested and enthusiastic about children's learning. They know children well and support their learning through well planned and resourced practical activities. Planning is completed on a long and medium term basis, with themes and projects identified and related learning activities and experiences detailed. Staff complete observations of children's progress but do not always use the information to influence and inform the planning, particularly for those children who may be older or more able. However, individual needs are recognised and met and the group receives advice and support from the reception teacher.

Leadership and management is very good. The management committee is a valued part of the setting and has worked hard to ensure all the correct policies and procedures are in place. Provision is monitored regularly and new equipment and resources provided as required. A development plan has been adopted for the improvement of the outdoor area.

Partnership with parents is very good. They are well informed about the setting, the daily routines, themes and activities, but do not receive information about the Foundation Stage of Learning. There are many opportunities for them to be involved in the group and be familiar with their child's learning. Parents are able to talk to staff at any time and have free access to any records.

### What is being done well?

- Children are developing a good level of independence, self motivation and self direction. They confidently select activities and pursue them with enthusiasm.
- Staff support children well and encourage them to make good use of the activities provided which are interesting and challenging. They are enthusiastic and involved and deployed effectively at all times.
- The committee is an active, valued part of the setting and works closely with staff in order to develop and improve the premises and programme.
- Parents have very good relationships with the playgroup and are well informed about the daily programme. They are welcomed into the group and encouraged to be involved in the activities.

### What needs to be improved?

- the system for using observations to influence planning, particularly for children who are older or more able

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

not applicable

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, excited and interested in exploring and learning through the well planned practical experiences provided. They display good independence and approach all activities with enthusiasm and commitment. Staff recognise the occasions when children are promoting their own learning and are confident about letting play situations develop. Behaviour is good and children are willing and co-operative. They relate well to adults and show good regard for each other.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

There are many opportunities for children to use and become familiar with language. They enjoy books, listen attentively to stories and are able to talk about their experiences using increasing vocabulary. Staff provide a literate environment and children are gaining familiarity with their written names and some words. Writing skills are developing at individual levels. Samples of children's work are valued and displayed within the setting.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

The well planned programme provides many practical opportunities for children to explore mathematical language and concepts. Daily activities introduce them to shape, size and measure and they are learning to compare and sort with items such as seeds, construction sets and craft materials. Children count with confidence and are gaining familiarity with numbers through discussions as they play and through rhymes and songs.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children are provided with many opportunities to explore, investigate and question why things happen. They are learning about the natural world, living things and the environment and make good use of the outdoor area. Local outings and themed play activities enable children to be familiar with their immediate environment and they are gaining an awareness of the wider world. The setting celebrates Christian customs and introduces children to festivals and customs of other countries.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are developing very good gross and fine motor skills and show control in the use of tools and equipment. They are confident with resources which promote hand/eye co-ordination and make good use of malleable materials. Children approach the large play equipment with confidence and enjoy the challenges provided by staff, so that they are developing good skills in balancing and climbing.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Good planning and enthusiastic teaching ensures that children are able to express their ideas in individual ways. Staff provide a rich environment and a range of interesting theme related activities which give children ample time to explore colour, sound, texture and form, using all their senses. They enjoy music and singing and show good imagination as they make use of the small world and role play areas.

**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;
- develop a system for using observations to influence planning, particularly for children who are older or more able

*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.*