



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 119991

DfES Number: 512992

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	12/02/2004
Inspector Name	Christine Goode

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Christchurch Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address	23 Waterden Road Guildford Surrey GU1 2AZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Committee of Christchurch Pre-School Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Committee of Christchurch Pre-School Playgroup
Address	7 Cunningham Avenue Guildford Surrey GU1 2PE

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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

Christ Church Pre-school Playgroup is a community pre-school. The pre-school is run by a committee, the officers of which are Trustees of the Playgroup. The playgroup is a registered charity.

The playgroup meets in the hall at Christ Church in the centre of Guildford. Opportunities for outside play are provided.

Sessions operate on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 12.00 noon during term time only. During the summer term, an additional session is held on Wednesdays (9.30 - 12.00) for children aged four plus. This session is held in one of the rooms available in the church centre.

The group is a member of the Pre-school learning Alliance. There are currently 15 children aged 3 years old and 12 children aged 4 years old receiving funding.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision of nursery education at Christchurch Pre-School Play Group is generally good. It enables children to make very good progress in personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy and generally good in all other areas of learning.

The quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan a wide variety of practical activities inside and when ever possible outside and understand what children learn from them. Resources are of good quality and organised well to encourage children to make choices and learn. Staff are skilled at developing children's language. They encourage them to ask questions and talk about what they are doing. Children with English as an additional language are well integrated into the group. Free play activities for funded children are presented with enthusiasm and commitment however, at times some aspects of the large grouping of children are not presenting older children with sufficient challenge and there are less opportunities for adding and taking away.

Staff observe and make notes of children's learning in the each of the six areas. They use the Surrey profiles for assessment to target individual needs and to plan out the next steps in children's learning which is shared with parents.

The leadership and management of the group is generally good. The staff work well as a team and have a collaborative approach to all aspects of their work. There is an appraisal system in place this helps to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and assist in identifying the future training needs of staff.

The partnership with parents and carers is good Parents spend time talking informally to staff about their children and receive good information about the group and the early learning goals. Children take home books on a regular basis and this enables parents be involved in their child's learning at home.

What is being done well?

- Counting and number rhymes are well integrated into the programme.
- Good mark making opportunities for children to practice in different situations.
- Behaviour is managed well, staff are consistent in their approach and give children praise and encouragement.
- Both younger and older children enjoy reading story books and are aware that print carries meaning. Children are able to turn pages from left to right.
- There is a good system in place for children to take books home which enables parents to support their children's learning at home.

What needs to be improved?

- labelling of equipment and work areas,
- keep print consistent and at children's height;
- weekly activity plans available to parents;
- opportunities for children to explore living things and objects;
- a review of the mid morning large grouping of children for story and snack time to enable older children to be sufficiently challenged and younger children to have their needs met appropriately;
- opportunities for children to explore calculation through daily routines and practical play.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure that the staff would look at how to include more open ended questions to encourage children to think and explore all areas of learning especially knowledge and understanding of the world and mathematics and provide a system to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching focusing on staff questioning children. The group have made good progress. The regular staff meetings focused on questions that could be asked to encourage children's thinking in knowledge and understanding of the world and in mathematics. This is now in their every day practice. An annual appraisal has been introduced which monitors and evaluates the quality of teaching and identifies staff training needs.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Both younger and older children's confidence and self esteem are built up by staff who are sensitive to their needs and know them well. They concentrate on the card game and sit quietly when appropriate. They select activities from available resources and are learning to take care of their personal needs. They share and take turns and are beginning to understand right from wrong. Children are encouraged to say please and thank you and be mindful of others feelings. Behaviour is good.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Both younger and older children are keen to communicate with staff through talk and gesture. They listen intently to stories. They enjoy books and regularly take them home. They are aware of the sounds of letters and of rhymes. Children recognise their names and older children are beginning to write these correctly whilst younger children enjoy good mark making opportunities in a variety of different ways. They enjoy making up their own stories in the role play areas.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

There are strong counting rhymes opportunities for children to become familiar with numbers up to 10. Older children are aware of the order of numbers both forward and back. They recognise, shapes, and are able to compare big, small and sort. Children explore volume and capacity through their play activities. However, practical play situations, and routines are not sufficiently exploited to extend children's understanding of adding and taking away.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

Discussion helps children to notice changes that occur, for example, discussing the weather daily and noticing the differences and changes. However, there is less opportunity for children to explore living things and objects. There are opportunities to make models from construction and select, assemble and join together materials. There are good opportunities to explore technology using a variety of programmable toys. A range of festivals are celebrated throughout the year.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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All children are given regular opportunities to develop their skills as they confidently run and move in action games and use wheeled equipment outside. Staff are on hand to give support and encourage new skills and ensure children are safe. All children are aware of their bodies and the space they have to move around in. Both younger and older children learn to handle scissors, pencils and paintbrushes with increasing control.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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All children participate enthusiastically, they use a variety of creative materials including paints and crayons. Children enjoy the role play corner where they acted out firemen and used their imagination. There are music sessions and opportunities to explore instruments and the sounds they make. Children sing songs, take part in music and movement and enjoy using their voices. There is opportunity for children to cook and taste food in the programme.

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

- provide more opportunity for children to explore living things and objects;
- review the mid morning large grouping of children for story and snack time to enable older children to be sufficiently challenged and younger children to have their needs met appropriately;
- opportunities for children to explore calculation through daily routines and practical play.

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.