



Office for Standards
in Education

NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100520

DfES Number: 538044

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/06/2003
Inspector Name	Diane Burt

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Andrews Church Playgroup
Setting Address	St Andrews Church Hall Shelbourne Road, Charminster Bournemouth Dorset BH8 8QQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St Andrews Church Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St Andrews Church Playgroup
Address	St Andrew's Church Hall Shelbourne Road, Charminster Bournemouth Dorset BH8 8QQ

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

St Andrews Church Playgroup opened in 1995. It operates from a side room with use of the main hall, in a Church hall, situated in a residential area in Charminster.

Toilet facilities are accessed close-by off corridor, with some kitchen facilities off the playroom. The playgroup do not have access to an outside play area, but utilise main hall for physical activities. The playgroup serves a culturally diverse community that all live locally.

The group are registered to provide places for 18 children between ages of 2yrs - 5yrs and have 29 children on register. They currently have two 4 year olds and seven 3 year olds receiving funding. They accommodate children with special educational needs and English as a second language.

The group are open Monday-Friday, 9.15-11.45 a.m. during term time.

A team of five staff, a playleader, full-time and part-time staff work with the children. Three of the staff have NVQ 3 Early Years qualifications, with all staff attending workshops to update skills. One member of staff has an NVQ level 2 in special needs.

They get support from Bournemouth EYDCP.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

St Andrews Playgroup is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children's progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses, although they are making generally good progress in personal, social and emotional development, mathematical development and physical development.

Teaching has significant weaknesses

Support for children with SEN is well provided for, 1-1 staff are well deployed and skilled.

Staff do not provide regular opportunities for children to show what they can do, many activities are adult directed Staff have an insecure knowledge of the early learning goals this means staff do not have sufficiently high expectations of children's abilities and therefore do not always offer challenges to stretch them . Although curriculum planning looks very good the plans are not effectively implemented which means learning outcomes for activities are often not achieved as children do not always access activities available to them.

Leadership and management has significant weaknesses The committee has limited involvement in the ongoing development of the setting. Staff are committed to the provision and to activities that support the least able children. Although the group has a clear vision and this is reflected in their aims, this is not integrated into practice, this means plans are not effectively monitored or evaluated for their effectiveness. Staff meet regularly as a team but do not use this opportunity to assess what works well and what doesn't. Childrens records are not sufficiently detailed to be of use in assessing their progress in the elgs

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are warmly welcomed into the playgroup and as involved as they wish to be. Parents are provided with relevant and appropriate information about the playgroup

What is being done well?

- There are strong relationships forming between children and their peers and staff and children, this supports children's ability to be confident, friendly share well and know the routine.
- Plans are thorough and shows how activities link to children's learning.
- Children with EAL are encouraged to communicate using gestures and facial expressions as well as words during activities
- Children with SEN are well supported by caring knowledgeable staff.

- There is a good range of well organised large physical play equipment available daily, which is well supported by staff.
- Partnership with parents is very good, they are well informed through leaflets, a notice board and through regular discussions with staff.

What needs to be improved?

- Increase staffs knowledge of the early learning goals to enable them to effectively challenge more able children.
- To ensure the thorough planning is put into practice
- The involvement of the committee in developing a system to more effectively monitor and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the setting

What has improved since the last inspection?

The pre school has made limited progress since the last inspection. Improvements have been more structured physical play opportunities that is well supported by staff and the provision of programmable and ICT equipment which includes telephone, calculator and phonic sound maker.

Areas still to be addressed include more challenge for older more able children, introduction of more activities that encourage children to link sounds and shapes and begin writing and provide more opportunities for children to explore art and music.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's progress in this area is generally good. St Andrew's Playgroup encourage the forming of strong relationships between children and their peers and staff and children. Children are confident and independently select activities during free play. Although in general some staff manage challenging behaviour well, there are inconsistencies in how the policy is implemented with the result that some children's behaviour is not very good.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children's progress in this area has significant weaknesses. Children with EAL are encouraged to communicate using gestures and facial expressions as well as words during activities. However there are few opportunities for children to write independently using appropriate tools and resources. Although the planning looks good there are many missed opportunities to expand, extend and develop language skills are apparent.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's progress in this area is generally good. Children use compare, name shapes and look at size, this helps them to use mathematical language. Children are keen to learn mathematical concepts and are encouraged to count as they play in the sand. Many activities take place during free play not all children are encouraged and motivated to experience the mathematical learning on offer.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
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Children's progress in this area is significant weakness. Children are developing an interest in ICT and know how to operate simple equipment. There are some regular opportunities to explore and investigate. Children with staff support are able to discuss about their lives. For some children regular opportunities to explore, investigate and design are limited.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children's progress in this area is generally good. Planning is effective and there is a good range of large physical play equipment that is well organised and supported by staff. Children are able to use and respect others space when playing tumble tots. Children do not have regular access to a range of small equipment used to support their learning and development.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
Judgement:	Significant Weaknesses
Children's progress in this area has significant weaknesses. Children are given good opportunities to explore senses during taste week. However regular opportunities to explore media and materials are unavailable. Although the role play area is well used as a home and hospital children's imaginative play is not appropriately guided by staff.	

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable but has some significant areas for improvement. Children progress towards the early learning goals is limited by some significant weaknesses. The next inspection will take place in one to two years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES

- Ensure that staff are fully involved in the planning process, including the effective evaluation of past activities so that they gain confidence and knowledge using the early learning goals.
- Ensure assessments of children's learning are used to help implement plans effectively to improve the learning outcomes for children.

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.