



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 130765

DfES Number: 594803

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 22/10/2003
Inspector Name Christine McNally

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Andrews Playgroup
Setting Address St Andrew's Church Hall
Church Road
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 2AD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name St Andrews Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Andrews Playgroup
Address St Andrews Church Hall
Church Road
Hove
E Sussex
BN3 2AD

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

St Andrews Playgroup first opened in 1984 and is managed by a parent run committee. It is accommodated in St Andrews Church Hall situated in Hove close to local amenities. The playgroup is open from 09:00 until 15:00, Monday to Friday, term time only. There are currently 25 children on roll, of these 5 are funded three-year-olds and 13 are funded four-year-olds. The playgroup has good experience of caring for children identified as having special educational needs. There are three children who have English as an additional language. There are eight members of staff, of which seven hold appropriate qualifications. Staff receive support from a qualified teacher attached to the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. There is a safe, secure outdoor area to the front of the building. The children attending are representative of the local community.

How good is the Day Care?

The standard of quality and care at St Andrews Playgroup is good. The playgroup is well organised and staff work well together as a team. They provide a warm, child friendly environment where children are happy and settled. There is an effective operational plan in place which helps guide the staff in their daily practice. Good safety measures are in place and children are safe and well cared for.

Staff plan and provide an interesting range of stimulating activities and children are making good progress in all areas of learning. The playgroup organises the space well to support children's learning. There is a good range of resources and toys available, but few that reflect diversity. The staff form warm caring relationships with the children and support them well in their chosen activities.

The playgroup has an effective relationship with parents; they have good opportunities to be involved in their child's learning. They are provided with useful information about the playgroup. The regular exchange of information, on children's progress ensures that their individual needs are well met. All the relevant paperwork is in place; the playgroup maintains records, policies and procedures well.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Following the last inspection the playgroup agreed to ensure at least one member of staff had an appropriate first aid certificate and to draw up an action plan detailing how the criteria for staff qualifications would be met. They also agreed to make safe the fence to the outdoor area. A new fence has been erected and the outside area is now safe and secure. The playgroup now has three members of staff who hold suitable first aid certificates, this ensures that there is always at least one member of staff on duty who is appropriately trained. The playgroup implemented an action plan regarding meeting the staff qualifications and of the eight staff employed, seven are now suitably qualified.

What is being done well?

- Staff form warm, caring relationships with children and know them well. They spend a lot of time talking and playing with them and children are well motivated to learn.
- Children enjoy playing with the good range of toys and resources and are happy and settled.
- The worthwhile range of activities and topics with, in particular, the good use of the of the local environment. Children learn a great deal about the world they live in.
- The effective operational plan demonstrates very clearly that the playgroup and staff have a very good working knowledge of the Standards. Children are safe and well cared for.

What needs to be improved?

- resources that reflect diversity.

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
9	Increase the range of resources that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision for nursery education at St Andrews Playgroup is good. It enables children to make very good progress towards the early learning goals in their personal, social and emotional development and in creative development, and generally good progress in all other areas of learning. Although there are minor gaps in the educational programme for communication, language and literacy and in knowledge and understanding of the world.

Overall the quality of teaching is generally good. Staff plan an interesting range of worthwhile activities and understand what children learn from them. They have a good understanding of the stepping stones towards the early learning goals and this is reflected in the planning. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour. They set realistic boundaries and understand the importance of praise and encouragement in promoting good behaviour. Good quality resources are well organised to support children's learning. There is an effective assessment system in place which monitors children's progress towards the early learning goals. The information gathered is then used to inform the planning.

The leadership and management of the nursery is generally good. The committee and staff have a good understanding of their differing roles and responsibilities. The regular committee and staff meetings are used to monitor and evaluate the provision and help to ensure continual improvement. Staff are actively encouraged to undertake further training.

Partnership with parents is very good, clear written information on the educational programme is available on the notice board and more general information on the playgroup, and the current topic, is provided through the regular newsletters. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the playgroup and to contribute to their child's records.

What is being done well?

- Children's personal, social and emotional development is given high priority. Children are happy, confident and interested in the activities offered. They are developing an awareness of others and have good self esteem.
- Relationships between children and staff are good, they question children effectively and give them good support in their chosen activities. Children are well motivated to learn.
- Good opportunities are offered for children to explore creative materials and to express themselves through meaningful role-play activities.
- Children respond well to the consistent praise and encouragement and are very well behaved.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities to use everyday technology in their play
- development of the book area.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Following the last inspection the playgroup was asked to improve the book area, to introduce the use of name cards and to offer more opportunities for children to explore writing for themselves. Name cards have been introduced and these are used to good effect to help children recognise their own name. More opportunities are now provided for children to explore writing for themselves and they are beginning to develop an understanding of writing for different purposes. Although the book area has been improved it is not an inviting or particularly comfortable area. Children are not sufficiently encouraged to read and share books with others.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children share and take turns well, they form warm relationships with each other and staff alike. They develop their personal independence skills as they pour drinks and put on their coats and shoes for themselves. Children show consideration for others and are developing a sense of right and wrong. Their ideas and work is valued and they are developing good self esteem, they are happy, confident and relaxed.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children are confident speakers, they listen well to each other, to instructions and at story time. They use language well in their role-play activities as they explore real and imagined experiences. They recognise their own names and are beginning to understand that writing can be used for different purposes. However, they are not sufficiently encouraged to read and handle books for themselves.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children count confidently to 10, and beyond, and use comparative language, such as longer and shorter developing their understanding of mathematical concepts. Children learn how to use numbers in everyday situations and show that they understand size and shape through practical activities. They are beginning to solve problems in everyday activities as they work out the date or how many spoons of flour they have added to the bread mix.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Generally Good

The local environment is very well used to help children develop a sense of place and learn about where they live. They enjoy a range of activities that encourage them to explore and investigate. Staff consistently encourage children to talk about and recall past events. Children extend their knowledge of others as they learn about and celebrate a variety of festivals. However, there are limited opportunities for them to use everyday technology in their play.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children show a good awareness of space and others as they move around the playgroup both indoors and out. Staff are on hand to support and encourage new skills such as helping children to bounce with increasing skill on the trampoline. Children are beginning to use a variety of equipment and tools, such as paint brushes, knives and pencils with increasing skill.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

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

Children enjoy worthwhile opportunities to explore texture and three dimensional space such as making collages and creating models. They explore sounds as they sing and play with musical instruments. They have very good opportunities to use their senses, for example as they bake bread and observe the ice as it melts during water play. The imaginative play area is regularly changed giving children many opportunities to take part in meaningful role-play.

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

- Introduce more opportunities for children to use everyday technology in their play, for example the use of remote controls and cameras in the imaginative play area.
- Further develop the book area to encourage children to read and share books with each other.

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.