



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 305100

DfES Number: 519983

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 13/05/2004
Inspector Name Steven Anthony Urry

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Helsby Playgroup
Setting Address Chester Road
Helsby
Frodsham
Cheshire
WA6 0AQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Helsby Playgroup 1023441

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Helsby Playgroup
Address Methodist Church Hall
Chester Road, Helsby
Frodsham
Cheshire
WA6 0AQ

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

Helsby Pre-School operates within the church hall. The pre-school has been running for 35 years. The Pre school cater for children from the local area and surrounding villages.

There are currently 32 children from two to five years on roll. This includes 13 funded three year olds and 14 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are two funded children who have special educational needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The Pre school provides five morning sessions a week and one afternoon session during term time only. The hours of opening are Monday 09.15 to 11.45 for rising fives, Tuesday to Friday 09.30 to 12.00. The afternoon session takes place on Thursdays 12.45-15.00 hrs.

Three part time staff work directly with the funded three and four year olds, of these, two hold a relevant qualification in child care. The group are a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Helsby Playgroup provides good quality care for children under eight years. There is an adequate level of qualified staff. The environment is warm and welcoming to children and their parents and the space available is sufficient to ensure the different needs of all the children are met. There is a wide range of good quality, stimulating play materials, furniture and equipment. Systems are in place for recording information, although there is currently no procedure to record children on the register that on occasion may leave early. Also, parent's signatures in the event of the group needing to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has not been maintained.

Staff actively promote children's safety throughout the playgroup at all times. Risk assessments are in place and steps taken to minimise risks to children and make them aware of potential hazards however, the climbing frame requires better

supervision as children were not observed at all times. Children's personal hygiene is promoted at all times.

A good level of planning is in place. Children are confident, friendly and familiar with their routines. They show interest in the stimulating play materials and activities provided, which aids their learning. The nursery promotes a very happy atmosphere, children and staff alike have fun together. Children relate well to each other and are well behaved.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents are made aware of their child's progress on a regular basis. The playgroup also has its own website.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There are no outstanding action from the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- There is a warm and happy atmosphere where staff and children have fun together.
- The planning of play and activities in place, ensure that children's stimulation is varied, interesting and enjoyable. Children are encourage to have fun whilst learning. Planning in place is conducive to the children's ages and stages of development and they are approached with flexibility.
- The provision provides a range of interesting and stimulating activities which help support children's learning and development.
- Themes are changed on regular basis to provide maximum interest.
- The playgroup works in partnership with parents to ensure children are looked after according to parents wishes and procedures are in place to keep parents informed about the provision and their children.

What needs to be improved?

- records, to ensure there is a system in place for obtaining parent's signatures for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment
- the daily register to include the times of departures should children leave early
- safety in respect of the use of the indoor climbing apperatus.

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	Ensure daily register records the times of departures in the event children may leave early/
6	Review the supervision procedure for the use of the climbing apparatus.
7	Ensure written parental permission is obtained prior to placement for the seeking of necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

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

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the Early Learning Goals in all six areas of learning. They are happy and confident within the setting and demonstrate a high level of involvement and enjoyment in activities provided.

The quality of teaching is very good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage. The children are secure, staff know how young children learn, therefore they are achieving their potential as young learners. Organisation of staff and resources enables all children to make very good progress. Children's behaviour is well managed at all times. Children's personal independence skills could be further enhanced during the snack time period. Observations and assessments are used to record children's achievements and progress, these are used as a tool to identify the next steps of learning.

The quality of leadership and management is very good. The Committee are very supportive of the staff team to ensure its aims are carried out. There are regular staff meetings, which clearly identifies roles and responsibilities, to ensure children's learning potential is developed.

Partnership with parents is very good. The playgroup has a very informative website which is regularly updated. Parents also receive comprehensive information about the setting, including the educational programme. They are kept informed on a daily basis about the activities children do and the areas of learning covered.

What is being done well?

- Staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals and plan in advance programmes of activities which cover all areas of development. They support, encourage and challenge children's thinking and provide a creative and stimulating environment for children to enjoy.
- The children communicate well with each other and staff. They are confident, interested and motivated to learn and demonstrate a high level of concentration and involvement in activities.
- Effective systems are in place for monitoring children's achievements. Staff use their observations for planning future activities based on the individual learning needs of the children.
- Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are provided with detailed information about the setting and are involved in their child's learning. A regularly updated website offers further information on forthcoming events and playgroup life.

What needs to be improved?

- the development of children's independence at snack time
- adult labelling in some areas.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The playgroup has made very good progress towards implementing three areas for improvement made at the last inspection.

The play group organise small groups of four-year-old children at activity tables to concentrate on developing aspects of language and literacy and mathematics.

A well presented writing area provides opportunities for the children to write by providing different papers and writing implements to allow the children to write for a number of purposes.

Structure physical activities which enable the children to encounter challenge and ensure progression in climbing, balancing, throwing, catching and other bodily skills are incorporated into each daily session for the children to enjoy.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are happy, confident and secure within the setting. They develop their confidence and social skills at all times and especially in the café area where they sit for snack time. The older and more capable children could develop their independence further by pouring their own and others drinks. Children's behaviour is good they have good relationships with all adults. They show consideration and kindness to each other and treat each other with respect.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children communicate well with each other and staff, using language with increasing confidence and developing skill. They are confident when speaking in groups. Children enjoy listening to stories. They enjoy registering themselves on arrival and recognising their own name. Most areas are labelled well with the exception of the Café and Registration areas. The writing table is well set out to provide many opportunities for children to freely write for a number of purposes.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are confident in their counting they can count to 10 and beyond and they are encouraged to do so in everyday activities. They solve problems in planned practical activities and are beginning to understand about addition and subtraction as they count out teddies and subtract when weighing them. Children recognise shape, they use language well to describe size, shape and quantity.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children learn about the environment through observing their immediate surroundings. This is reflected most strongly in the home corner area. They examine and explore a wide range of living things within the present theme of mini beasts. They are developing an awareness of the wider world as they celebrate festivals and special events. They have access to computers where they show confidence and use them well.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move around the indoor environment with confidence and good control. They show an awareness of space, themselves and others. They understand the importance of washing their hands. They also know it is important to eat healthy foods. They handle small tools, such as paint brushes, scissors, pencils with good control.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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The children enjoy exploring colour in imaginative ways through art and craft activities. Displays are regularly changed to reinforce and stimulate learning. They express and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings through taking turns to use puppets in the regular puppet show. They enjoy using musical instruments and dancing.

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, but two points for consideration:
- the development of children's independence at snack time
- extending adult labelling to all areas of learning.

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.