



Launton Playgroup

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	133885
Inspection date	24 May 2006
Inspector	Ann Hilary Guy
Setting Address	Terrapin Building, Launton Primary School, Bicester Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 5DP
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Registered person	Launton Playgroup
Type of inspection	Integrated
Type of care	Sessional care

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

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THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Launton Playgroup is run by a voluntary committee. It registered about 35 years ago and operates from a terrapin building, situated behind the village school in Launton, Oxfordshire.

A maximum of 22 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 15.00 on Tuesday and

Thursday, school term times. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 36 children aged from two to under five years on roll. Of these 22 children receive funding for early education. Children come from the local area. The group currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The playgroup employs five staff, two of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and two are working towards a qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy, because staff follow current and appropriate environmental health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. Children wash their hands before all meals, after playing outside and after going to the toilet. Suitable procedures are in place for nappy changing and potty training, preventing any possibility of cross infection. Sound written procedures underpin the appropriate action taken when a child is unwell, requires first aid, or medication.

Children receive excellent quantities of quality food and drink. This is freshly prepared on site each day and includes a good selection of different fruits and vegetables. Special dietary needs are well catered for. Children experience an extensive range of stimulating opportunities in outdoor play. They use this area regardless of the weather. Activities include a climbing frame, trikes, sandpit, water painting, chalking and a small garden area. The variety of equipment available meets the needs of all the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children remain safe and well looked after at all times in this warm, secure, and child-centred environment. The premises are well organised to enable children plenty of space to play safely, both inside and outside the building. A wide variety of toys and equipment are available, although children have limited free access to self-select. Activities are pre-selected by the staff. The use of soft shoes inside, which further improves the safety for the children.

Good incident record-keeping, ensures the welfare of the children at all times. Their safety is paramount and staff take steps to ensure all possible risks are minimised. Clear procedures are in place when children go on outings, to enable them to remain safe at all times. Regular fire drills ensure most children understand the procedure to follow. However, these are not recorded in detail to enable staff to monitor improvements. The staff protect children very well. All have a clear understanding of the policy and procedure to follow regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

All children experience a wide and varied range of activities both indoors and outdoors. These cover all areas of their development, resulting in children being busy and stimulated whilst at the playgroup.

Younger children attend in the afternoon and enjoy the variety of resources available, such as the home corner, construction, small world play activities, and art and craft activities. However, no formal planning is in place for these sessions. The children are well looked after, they are confident and settled and greatly benefit from the individual attention due to the small numbers in the afternoon sessions. Children behave well and quickly comply with the requests from the staff.

Nursery Education

This quality of teaching and learning is good. Children experience a varied and interesting curriculum that offers sound coverage of the Foundation Stage, although plans are purely linked to the yellow band stepping-stones. Staff skills automatically develop the more able children's knowledge and understanding well beyond this. Children greatly benefit from the staff's ability to integrate the six areas of learning into the daily routine. The outside area is used as an extension of the inside, with children having free access to move between the two areas. Observations show stimulating focus activities are included for the children, but these are not fully documented. A group of children planted sunflowers in the garden with a member of staff. These had initially been planted in pots and were put outside once strong enough. Children learnt a great deal from the discussion that took place during this activity.

Staff evaluate at the end of the session, and note observations throughout the session, which are included in the children's assessment folders and used when planning the next steps of learning. Plans do not fully reflect the integrated approach to learning adopted by the staff, which insures the children receive a rich and varied curriculum.

Children learn through guided free-play activities, pre-selected by staff, enabling them to move freely between all curriculum areas. They are skilled at making good relationships with their peers and adults, and some are able to concentrate for an extended length of time. Children enjoyed making postcards, selecting the picture for the front, and writing their names on the back.

Children are happy and confident, they communicate well and are developing sound skills at mark making. Many opportunities are given to enable children to count, problem solve, and develop number awareness in everyday situations. Through the topic based learning children discover, in practical ways, about other countries, cultures and religions. Their imaginative skills are well developed through the effective use of small world play, dressing-up clothes and other resources. Children are developing an understanding of information technology. They enjoy books and listening to stories, singing songs, and partaking in other musical activities. They are

fortunate to have sand, water and painting activities available at all times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel a sense of belonging and involvement in the life of the playgroup, and staff work closely with appearance to ensure their individual needs are met. They have access to toys and equipment that reflect different cultures. Children make choices and decisions throughout the session, supported by staff team that know them well and treat them as individuals. The afternoon session is a transition time for the younger children, before moving to the morning session. Children with learning difficulties have good support, to enable them full access to the activities offered. All children generally behave well and understand right from wrong, adhering to the basic rules of the playgroup. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

The partnership with parents is good. Children are looked after, according to parent's wishes and benefit from the positive relationship staff have with the parents. Good communication links ensure consistent and supportive care is given at all times. Parents receive newsletters to keep them fully informed, together with the daily information on the whiteboard and parent's notice board. Regular opportunities enable parents to see their child's assessment portfolio.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children greatly benefit from the clear policies and procedures that underpin the care. These are regularly updated and reviewed. A satisfactory registration system is in place, and ensures all children, staff and visitors are recorded. Staff have a very high regard for children's welfare, creating a very positive, extended family atmosphere. Leadership and management are good. The new committee and staff team are working closely together to improve the facilities and provision offered by the playgroup.

Children are cared for in suitable groups with the required staff ratio. They greatly benefit from the care and commitment of the staff to achieve early years qualifications and attend additional training courses.

The setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection the group were asked to review their nappy changing policy; develop an effective key worker system; and promote healthy eating and independence at snack time. All these have been addressed. Children self help themselves at snack time and enjoy healthy nutritious foods; the key worker system works well and helps the children identify with their key member of staff. The

changing routine has been discussed at length, with systems in place to try and give as much privacy as possible to children.

A large number of recommendations were made at the last education inspection. A clear action plan has been drawn up and staff have successfully achieved all they set out to do in their action plan, meeting the recommendations made.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure details of all fire practices are recorded and they are held at times to ensure all children are included
- develop plans for the afternoon sessions, in line with the aspects and approach described in the Birth to Three Matters Framework.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- develop planning and assessment to ensure it reflects the activities provided and meets the needs of all children, including the more able
- create opportunities for children to self-select equipment during the session.

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procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website:
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