



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 143053

DfES Number: 581131

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 03/11/2004  
Inspector Name Julie Neal

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Ladybirds Playgroup  
Setting Address Lydeard St Lawrence Primary School  
Lydeard St Lawrence  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA4 3SF

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ladybirds Playgroup 1031475

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ladybirds Playgroup  
Address Lydeard St. Lawrence Primary School  
Lydeard St. Lawrence  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA4 3SF

## 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

Ladybirds Playgroup is a committee run pre-school. It operates from a self-contained unit in the grounds of the village primary school in Lydeard St Lawrence. There are kitchen and toilet facilities within the unit, and the group has access to the school playground, playing field and environmental garden, all fully enclosed. The playgroup serves a rural catchment area, many children attending go on to attend the school.

The playgroup is registered to provide 13 places for children aged two to five years. Currently there are 15 children on the roll, 9 of whom are funded three- and four-year-olds. There are no children attending at present with special educational needs, or for whom English is an additional language.

The playgroup opens four days a week, 09.00 to 12.00, Monday to Thursday, during school term time. A toddler session, run by parents is available on Friday mornings.

There are three members of staff, who all have appropriate early years qualifications.

The group has close links with the reception staff of the school, liaising through the transition from playgroup to school. They have received support from the EYDCP.

### How good is the Day Care?

Ladybirds Playgroup provides good quality care for children. The provision is well organised, with space and resources used effectively to provide a welcoming and child friendly environment.

Children take part in a good range of activities that encourage learning and development in all areas. These are age appropriate, and staff plan well to ensure all children receive appropriate levels of challenge. Activities are supported by a good variety of toys and equipment that are easily accessible to children, who freely self select. These include a good selection of resources that reflect cultural diversity,

which are used well by staff to encourage children's awareness. Staff show a good understanding of equal opportunities and inclusion and work well with parents to ensure individual children's needs are met. Staff interact well with children. Behaviour is managed well, with staff being positive and consistent. Children show understanding of ground rules and routines, and good behaviour is encouraged well.

There are appropriate systems in place to ensure children are kept safe and well. Staff have a very good knowledge of individual dietary requirements and food allergies and children are learning effective hygiene routines. Staff show vigilance about children's safety, however recording of some health and safety routines is inconsistent.

Parents are made very welcome in the setting, and encouraged to take an active role. They generally receive suitable information about the provision. Most required documentation is in place and maintained appropriately.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection it was agreed to produce an operational plan and some related policies and procedures, and to ensure good practice regarding hand drying facilities. These have mainly been addressed appropriately, although some documentation still needs developing.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff provide a welcoming and child friendly environment, making good use of space.
- Children take part in a good range of activities that encourage learning and development. These are supported by a wide range of resources that are accessible to children.
- Staff interact well with children. They are positive and encouraging, and behaviour is managed well.
- Staff show good understanding of equal opportunities issues and ensure individual children's needs are met well.
- Parents are welcomed in the setting and encouraged to participate.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- availability of written risk assessment for inspection
- written procedure to follow if a child becomes lost
- complaints procedure
- records of fire drills

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)**

Not applicable.

**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
14	Ensure that all documentation, policies and procedures required by National Standards are in place, maintained appropriately and available for inspection.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Ladybirds Playgroup provides high quality nursery education. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

Teaching of the children is very good. Staff show good knowledge and understanding of the early learning goals. Curriculum planning is good and ensures all areas of learning receive balanced coverage. Staff make effective observations of individual children and these are used well in assessing progress towards the early learning goals. Assessments are used appropriately in planning the next steps for individual children, and plans clearly show where extension or support is appropriate. Behaviour within the setting is managed well, with staff being consistent and positive.

Leadership and management is very good. Communication between the staff team is good and they monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of their practice well. There is a commitment to ongoing development and training and effective systems in place to identify and address areas for improvement.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff develop good relationships with parents, who are encouraged to take an active role in the provision. They are generally well informed about the curriculum, routines and activities. Systems to keep them informed of children's progress towards the early learning goals are being improved.

### What is being done well?

- Children are confident and well motivated. They show interest in activities and concentrate well. They develop good relationships with each other and with adults, and are effective communicators.
- Children are developing good mathematical skills in all areas. They benefit from regular opportunities to practise what they learn in practical and meaningful contexts. They explore and investigate confidently, and have a variety of opportunities to develop ICT skills.
- Children move confidently within their environment and make good use of indoor and outdoor areas. They show control and co-ordination and are developing a good understanding of how their bodies work. They take part in a good range of activities that encourage them to express themselves creatively.
- Staff show very good knowledge and understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Effective planning ensures that the needs of all children are met well.

**What needs to be improved?**

- information given to parents about their children's progress towards the early learning goals.

**What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection there were three key issues. These were, to take advantage of practical opportunities for children to develop mathematical skills; to ensure a balance of planned activities across all areas of learning, with clear intended learning outcomes; and to enable staff to attend training to develop skills. All these areas have been addressed well. Staff have attended training in areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Planning is effective in ensuring a balance of activities and learning intentions are clearly stated on plans. Children are practising their mathematical skills in a variety of practical, everyday contexts.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children show high levels of confidence and self esteem. They self select resources confidently, and persist well with activities of their choice. They concentrate well in whole group activities, they listen well and take turns. Children interact well with each other and with adults and behaviour is good. They help each other, and they are developing good personal independence skills.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children communicate confidently. They are developing a good descriptive vocabulary and use speech well to explore ideas and feelings. Children link sounds and letters well and show enjoyment of rhymes and songs. They are learning that print carries meaning and use books for pleasure and to retrieve information. They are writing for a variety of purposes and are developing good handwriting skills.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently and purposefully. Shape recognition is good and children recreate patterns effectively. Children use positional language accurately and are developing a good understanding of size and measure. They are beginning to learn simple calculations and developing appropriate problem solving skills. Children regularly practise their mathematical knowledge in practical activities and everyday contexts.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children explore and investigate confidently. They are developing a very good understanding of the natural world and of how properties change. They design and build well for a purpose, using a variety of materials and are developing a good sense of time and place. They are learning very well about ICT and the use of everyday technology and are learning effectively about their own and other cultures.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children move confidently within their environment. They show control and co-ordination, and are developing a good understanding of how their bodies work. Children accurately use a good range of tools and equipment that develop large and small motor skills. They are developing an appropriate understanding of basic health awareness and self care.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children use a very good range of media to express themselves, their thoughts and ideas. They confidently organise and direct their own imaginative play and take part in a good range of creative activities that are not adult directed or product oriented. They take part in regular musical activities and participate confidently, and have good opportunities to explore with their senses.

**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 key issues but the following point for consideration:
- continue to develop systems of sharing information with parents to ensure that they are regularly kept informed of their children's progress towards the early learning goals.

*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.*