



Office for Standards  
in Education

## COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 116838

DfES Number: 585105

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/09/2004  
Inspector Name Jenny Scarlett

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Gloucester Road Playgroup  
Setting Address 59 Gloucester Road  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG30 2TH

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Gloucester Road Playgroup Committee

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Gloucester Road Playgroup Committee  
Address 59 Gloucester Road  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG30 2TH

## 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

Gloucester Road Playgroup opened in 1974. It operates from a self-contained building in the town of Reading. The playgroup have one room and a large fully enclosed outdoor area. The playgroup serves a wide geographical area.

There are currently 42 children on role. This includes 22 funded 3 and 4-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions a week. The playgroup supports children with special needs. There are children attending who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 to 11:30 and 13:00 to 15:30.

Six staff members are employed to work with the children. Three have Early Years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Two staff members are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. One staff member is currently working towards furthering her childcare qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

Gloucester Road Playgroup offers good quality care for children. Staff develop good relationships with the children and parents. The staff team are committed to updating their childcare skills and knowledge with regular training. The supervisor and her staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of the requirements for registration and the National Standards for Sessional Day Care.

Staff give high priority to ensuring the safety of the children and consistently carry out procedures detailed in the policies. Procedures for child protection are detailed and fully understood. However the procedures for protecting staff from allegations lack detail. Staff promote good hygiene and the children are encouraged to become independent in their personal care. Staff offer a good range of healthy snacks and foster the children's independence appropriately. Children develop confidence and

are secure in their environment.

The staff ensure the children have access to a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities with a well planned curriculum to promote and enhance the children's play and learning, both indoors and outdoors. Staff are caring and sensitive to the children's needs and children's behaviour is well managed.

The staff have good relationships with parents. The parents support the pre-school and liaise with staff daily. Children's progress records are clearly recorded and shared informally with parents. Parents receive good quality information relating to the setting, its policies and curriculum. However parents are not made aware of the details of the regulatory body.

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

Not applicable.

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

- The playgroup provides an effective play and learning environment for the children indoors and out. Staff plan first hand experiences such as exploring the texture of porridge that enable children to make choices as they develop their skills, knowledge and understanding. They support the children's care learning and play well with a good range of activities that take place indoors and out.
- The environment is safe and secure and space is well organised and used appropriately to promote the children's development. The staff provide an effective play and learning environment for the children indoors and out. Outdoors the playgroup is well resourced with tractor tyres, planks and large wooden climbing apparatus which allows the children to enjoy vigorous physical activities. The adjoining surrounding small woodland is used effectively to promote outdoor games, explore the environment and listen to stories under the tree canopy.
- Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Relevant induction procedures and opportunities to receive further training help staff develop their skills in organising provision that meets all of the children's individual needs.
- All children's work and achievements are valued. Their work is sympathetically displayed in all areas of the playgroup. The room and play areas, indoors and outdoors are well prepared and activities well presented to the children, encouraging their confidence to select play materials from a good range of resources.
- Staff are vigilant of the children's safety. They demonstrate an awareness of children's developing abilities which helps to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the procedures for complaints and child protection.

**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
12	Make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the regulatory body.
13	Develop procedures for protecting staff from allegations of abuse.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Gloucester Road Playgroup provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. Effective teaching helps the children make very good progress towards all of the areas of learning.

Teaching is very good with staff demonstrating sound knowledge of the stepping stones. The particular strengths in personal social and emotional development are due to the interaction from staff, engaging the children in suitable activities and nurturing their self esteem. Staff use good consolidation techniques through repetition questions and revisiting topics and activities to enhance the children's learning.

The accommodation and resources are used well to support the children's learning. Staff organise the indoor space and resources imaginatively to create an interesting learning environment. The outdoor environment is used particularly well to promote the children's physical skills and to develop their imaginative play and understanding of the natural world. Planning of the curriculum is effective and covers the early learning goals and the stepping stones. However planning does not consistently show what needs to be included in the next steps for learning. There are effective systems in place to provide good support for children with special needs.

Leadership and management is very good. There is good support from the supervisor backed up by the management committee. A shared understanding and commitment to early years is clearly visible. The supervisor knows the staff well and utilises their individual strengths and skills within the setting. Staff work well as a team with clearly defined roles.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents are well informed about the nursery its routines and activities with good opportunities to speak to staff on a daily basis. Good quality written information about the provision is made available for all parents.

### What is being done well?

- Staff use very good strategies to promote good behaviour. They give children clear and consistent boundaries and help them to understand the impact of their behaviour on others. Their calm and consistent manner sets a very good example for children.
- Children's personal social and emotional development is very good. They are confident, interested and able to work on their own. They enjoy the activities and make rapid strides in their learning due to the staff demonstrating a good understanding of the individual needs and abilities of the children.
- Staff set challenges for children that increase their thinking and skills with practical first hand experiences to explore and investigate.

- Staff use good consolidation techniques through repetition questions and revisiting topics and activities to enhance the children's learning.
- The accommodation and resources are used well to support the children's learning. Staff arrange the outdoor area, playroom and resources imaginatively to encourage the children to make decisions in their play and to be independent.

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

- the attention given to providing children with experiences to listen to and explore different repertoires of music
- the development of a consistent assessment of where the children are in their learning, so that staff can move them onto the next stage.

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

Very good progress has been made since the last inspection. The staff have introduced a number of effective teaching measures and opportunities for children to learn about their bodies and developed the outdoor play area to include an all weather safety surface.

Staff plan for and make very good use of the outdoor environment which has a positive impact on the children's learning and physical development. The outdoor environment is used effectively promoting and developing children's physical skills as well as providing valuable opportunities to extend their play and learning.

Staff continue to take training opportunities in curriculum planning particularly in physical development. This results in staff providing good opportunities for the children to recognise the importance of staying healthy and recognising the changes that happens to their bodies when they are active. Staff plan an effective curriculum that includes cooking and tasting foods, images of healthy eating are displayed in the playgroup and discussions take place at activity times to explore why children feel different after physical exercise.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children show good concentration skills and express their needs confidently. They are developing their independence skills and are confident to work independently in a variety of activities. Children are sensitive to the needs of others, share toys and resources, readily take turns and co-operate with each other. Staff praise children in their work and play helping build their self-esteem and confidence. They confidently use their initiative to expand activities.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children interact and talk with each other and adults confidently. They readily invite and include staff in their play and activities. Children use language well to negotiate and express their ideas with each other and adults. Their spoken language and writing skills are developing well as a result of the good range of planned and spontaneous activities. There are good opportunities for the children to practise emergent writing and to recognise and write their own names.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children count confidently up to and beyond ten and many recognise numbers up to nine. They learn to use numbers in everyday situations and show that they understand size and shape through practical activities. There are good opportunities to extend the children's understanding of matching and comparing using bottle tops and compare bears. There are good practical activities to begin to solve problems such as design and building with boxes and filling different sized bowls with porridge.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Planned activities aid children to notice changes such as observing birds on the bird table and growing vegetables and flowers in the garden. They build and construct with large and small bricks and play dough to extend their skills. Children talk about personal events in their own lives and are becoming aware of other cultures and traditions. There are good opportunities to develop the children's curiosity in the outdoor area. Children are confident in the use of technological resources.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children experience varied opportunities to promote their physical skills. They are advanced and skilled in their physical skills through well planned and spontaneous activities. Staff are on hand to provide support and encourage new skills such as climbing. Children are able to control pencils, scissors and paintbrushes with a good range of activities to develop their manipulative skills. Children are confident in their independence skills and show a good awareness of basic hygiene.

**CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children respond to new experiences and explore a variety of media and materials. Children express their ideas freely through a good range of activities including role play. Children draw on their own experiences and imagination as they pretend to make dinner in the home corner. They join in singing enthusiastically and use their voices to distinguish between sounds. However opportunities to listen to different repertoires of music are not fully exploited.

**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 to report, but consideration should be given to improving the following:-
- increase children's awareness of different repertoires of music
- develop a consistent assessment of where the children are in their learning so that staff can move them onto the next stage.

*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.*