



**Office for Standards  
in Education**

## **NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT**

**URN 139177**

**DfES Number: 522423**

### **INSPECTION DETAILS**

Inspection Date 01/03/2005  
Inspector Name Maria Therese Conroy

### **SETTING DETAILS**

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Childsplay Pre-School Playgroup  
Setting Address Ickenham Cricket Pavilion  
Oak Avenue  
Ickenham  
Middlesex  
UB7 9ER

### **REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS**

Name Mrs Linda Hutchinson

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public 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

Childsplay Pre-School Playgroup is located in the Cricket Pavilion of Ickenham Cricket Club and serves the village of Ickenham and the surrounding area. The leader employs six members of staff who work in rotation over the week to ensure that the required staff/child ratio is always maintained. A key worker system is in place.

There are currently 34 children on roll 8 of whom are funded 3 year olds. The group support children who have special educational needs and those who have English as an additional language.

The Pre-School is open five days per week from 09:15 to 12:15 during the term time to care for children age two years to under five years. They also offer a wrap around service for those children within the group who attend the afternoon session at Breaksphere Nursery. In addition the group offers a holiday play scheme for children age two years to under eight years.

There are good public transport links within easy reach. The Pre-School has access to support from the early years development team.

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

### How effective is the nursery education?

Childsplay Pre-School offers good quality nursery education where children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. Most staff have a sound knowledge of the Foundation Stage Curriculum which enables them to plan a range of appropriate and interesting activities. All staff work closely with the children to encourage their learning and have very good questioning skills to extend children's language and thinking. Staff observe and assess children's development and record achievements. The procedure in place to provide support for children with English as an additional language is good and is enhanced by providing displays in other key languages. There is appropriate support in place for children who have special education needs.

Leadership and Management is generally good. The owner/manager oversees the running of the group and provides a supportive role model to staff. There is strong commitment to staff development, through staff and planning meetings, however there is no procedure in place for staff appraisals. The owner/manger has a good understanding of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and has worked hard to develop planning methods. She is aware of the need to further develop assessment of children's progression and how to help children move on in their learning.

Partnership with parents is generally good. The setting is welcoming and staff are approachable. Parents receive regular information on the Foundation Stage Curriculum through newsletters which enables them to be involved in their child's learning. Parents meetings are held to enable parents to discuss the methods of assessment with the manager. There are no formal procedures in place to allow parents to discuss their child's progress. Parental participation is actively encouraged within the group through fund raising events and coffee mornings.

### What is being done well?

- Children have very good opportunities to develop their imagination through well resourced role play.
- Children have very good opportunities to develop their language skills and extend their vocabulary through planned activities.
- Children are provided with a good range of activities to develop their mathematical thinking.
- Staff have a generally good understanding of the early learning goals and provide a well balanced stimulating environment.
- Partnership with parents is generally good, they are kept well informed through regular newsletters and an informative parent's notice board.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the development of staff appraisals
- staff's knowledge and professional development in relation to the Foundation Stage Curriculum and assessment of children's progress
- opportunities for children to self select creative materials for their own purpose
- procedures for keeping parents informed of their child's progress in relation to the stepping stones.

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

N/A

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are generally well behaved and developing a secure sense of right and wrong. They are becoming more independent and developing their self help skills through practical activities. Children are curious, motivated to learn and persist at chosen activities for extended periods of time. They have generally good relationships with adults and are beginning to show an understanding of working together as a group, developing their sharing and turn taking skills.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children are beginning to listen with enjoyment to stories and group discussions. There are opportunities for children to extend their imaginative thinking through well resourced role play situations. Children are generally confident speakers and are building up a range of vocabulary, through well planned activities. There are very good opportunities to link sounds with letters. Children attempt to mark make for a variety of purposes and some are beginning to write their names.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are beginning to use and recognise numbers during play and some can confidently count to five and over. They are beginning to understand simple addition and subtraction when singing number songs. There are good opportunities for children to begin to solve mathematical problems such as when measuring, weighing or sorting objects. Children use mathematical language such as big, small, short and long during well planned activities such as play dough.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have begun to learn about past and present events in their lives, and different cultures and beliefs through planned topics and celebrations such as Chinese New Year. They are involved in investigative and exploratory activities such as discussing how ice melts and how cars move. They are beginning to find out about the natural world with topics such as mini beasts. There are opportunities to develop confidence in using technological equipment including the computer.

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Very Good

Children are beginning to move around with increasing control and show an awareness for space, through activities such as music and movement. They have very good opportunities for daily physical exercise using a range of equipment. They are developing an understanding of the importance of staying healthy through practical activities such as hand washing. Children use tools and equipment with confidence and are developing good fine motor skills such as through use of scissors.

### **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have very good opportunities to take part in a range of creative activities such as sticking, cutting and painting. They have good opportunities to use and develop their imagination in well resourced role play such as the florist. There are good opportunities for regular singing sessions and to develop their recognition of sounds with musical instruments through planned activities. There are limited opportunities for children to self select creative materials for their own purpose.

**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**

- develop procedures for staff appraisals to enable identification of areas for professional development
- extend the opportunities for children to self select creative materials for their own purpose.

*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.*