



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 223573

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/11/2004
Inspector Name Josephine Mary Hammick

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Noah's Ark Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address 133 Edgar Street
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 9JR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Noah's Ark Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Noah's Ark Pre-School
Address u/a
,
u/a

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care. When making judgements, inspectors have regard to how well the provider meets the National Standards for under Eights Day Care and Childminding. A list of these is attached. The report identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

Information about the setting

Noah's Ark Pre-school Playgroup operates from the Christian Life Centre, Hereford with which it has strong links. The group has the use of two main areas of the building, the Noah's Ark play room and the meeting room. There is also access to the kitchen and adult toilets. Children's facilities are included within the playroom. Children have access to outside play at the rear of the building.

The group is registered for 36 children aged between 2½ and 5 years. Noah's Ark opted out of nursery education funding for three and four year olds. Children from a wide catchment area attend a variety of sessions throughout the week.

The pre-school opens five days a week during term time only. Sessions are from 09:15 to 13:15.

The group supports children with special needs and English as an additional language.

Four members of staff work in the group. Two have attained NVQ level three in Early Years Care and Education, one holds a Diploma in Pre-School Practice(DPP) and one is training for NVQ level 2. The pre-school is a member of the local early years partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Noah's Ark Pre-school Playgroup provides good care for children. The premises are safe, clean and very tidy. There are clear routines that help children feel secure and staff respect children's individual needs at all times. There is a strong emphasis on safety, children and staff have a good awareness of potential dangers. Attention is paid to establishing good hygiene practices.

The group has a good range of toys and equipment, which are very clean and well stored. However, the outside play surface is uneven and requires maintenance. Children can access what they want to play with from a variety laid out each day, or they can choose freely for themselves. Staff get on very well with the children being cared for. Interaction is very good, the children are encouraged and stimulated well according to their developmental stage and ability.

Relationships with parents are very good due to the great efforts made by staff on admission and through ongoing communication once children attend. There are

clear procedures and behaviour boundaries that are understood by both children and parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff are active in accessing training on a regular basis to extend and update their knowledge.
- Staff have a sound knowledge of child development which is reflected in their empathy and understanding of children's individual needs.
- Children are observed and assessed. Activities are planned, provided and adapted to suit individual children, therefore helping them to reach their full potential whatever their ability.
- Relationships with parents and staff are very good. Staff respect parents wishes, and keep them well informed of their child's progress.
- Standards of hygiene are high. Great efforts are made to establish good routines with the children. Good practices are in place to minimize risk of cross infection.
- The managing of difficult behaviour is based on a child's own needs and personality. Staff are consistent and caring in their strategies, which are pitched at a level a child can understand.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The attention which is given to providing for a child's individual needs, whatever their age and stage of ability. Children are fully supported by staff in order to reach their full potential. Activities are planned and adapted to include all children.

What needs to be improved?

- the maintenance of the surface of the outside play area, to make it safer for children.

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
6	Ensure the surface of the outside play area, which is uneven, is made safer and is properly maintained.

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.