



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 159395

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/09/2004
Inspector Name Anne Robertson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Little Oaks Preschool
Setting Address Valley Community Hall
Sunningvale Avenue
Biggin Hill
Kent
TN16 3TN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Miranda Claire Nuttall

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

Little Oaks Pre-school has been run by the present owners since 2001. It operates from two rooms in a community hall in Biggin Hill. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The pre-school serves the local community.

There are currently 42 children from 2.5 to 5 years on roll. This includes 15 funded 3 year olds and 18 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently no children attending who have special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term time and sessions are from 09.00 until 12:00.

A team of eight staff work with the children, with usually seven working at each session. Three of the staff have early years' qualifications equivalent to NVQ level two or three and three staff are working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the local Early Years Childcare Development Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Little Oaks pre-school provides good care for the children. There is a detailed set of policy documents which underpin the organisation of the group. The staff work very well together as a team and are deployed effectively to ensure children receive the appropriate level of support and supervision. The required records are kept up to date and in good order.

The premises are well maintained and provide a warm and welcoming environment. Good use is made of the premises. Children have opportunities for small and large group activities, both indoors and out. There are some good systems in place to ensure the health, safety and security of the children, but three areas of health and safety need improvement. Important information is gathered from parents and recorded, prior to children's admission to the pre-school, to enable staff to meet their individual needs.

There is wide range of toys and play equipment. These include resources which reflect equality of opportunity. Children are engaged in a variety of stimulating and enjoyable activities. These are planned in advance to ensure all areas of learning

are included. Staff interact well with the children and provide the appropriate support, supervision and encouragement. Positive methods are used to promote good behaviour and children generally behave well.

The pre-school have good systems in place to encourage partnership with parents. A comprehensive information pack is given to parents initially which includes the group's policies and procedures. There is a notice board for parents in the entrance hall, which includes information on the curriculum, and children's progress reports are shared with their parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the pre-school agreed to carry out seven actions. These were to: develop procedures to ensure un-vetted people were not left alone with children; develop an action plan for the use of the vestibule area; complete a risk assessment for the outdoor area; ensure plug sockets were made safe; make safe glass in the entrance door; ensure staff receive training on administering an epi-pen and include equality of opportunity in the employment policy. These had all been carried out satisfactorily and thus improved the service.

What is being done well?

- The policy and procedural documents are comprehensive and kept up to date with new requirements. Staff are obviously familiar with these as their practice reflects the pre-school's philosophy and operational procedures. Parents have their own copies of these documents and they are also displayed in the entrance hall for parents/visitors to view.
- There is a good variety of activities and resources. Children are able to engage in creative, imaginative and physical play and important social skills are re-enforced by the staff. Activities and resources reflect the cultural diversity of society and portray positive images of gender and disability.
- The staff interaction with the children is very good. Children approach staff easily and are obviously comfortable with them. Staff explain things clearly to children, listen to them and ask appropriate questions to extend their knowledge and understanding.
- The methods used for behaviour management are good. The staff promote good behaviour by the use of 'ticks and star' systems, as well as a special doll which children can take home at the week-end. Older children have also been involved in helping to devise their own rules which are displayed in the pre-school.
- The partnership with parents is good. Parents are provided with useful information about the pre-school and their child's activities and progress. There are photograph albums in the entrance hall showing children engaged in a variety of activities. These help to make new parents and children feel welcome and give them an idea of what the pre-school will be like.

What needs to be improved?

- the hot water in the children's hand wash basins
- the record of fire drills
- the first aid box.

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
7	Remove medication for staff from the first aid box.
6	Make sure that the hot water provided for hand washing does not pose a hazard for children.
6	Improve the fire drill record by including the evacuation times and the numbers of adults and children.

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.