



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 223578

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 20/01/2005
Inspector Name Deborah Ball

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Pencombe Under Fives
Setting Address Pencombe & Little Cowarne Village Hall
Pencombe
Bromyard
Herefordshire
HR7 4SH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Pencombe Under Fives

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Pencombe Under Fives
Address Village Hall
Pencombe
Bromyard
Herefordshire
HR7 4SH

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

Pencombe Under Fives Playgroup was established in 1977 and operates from the village hall in the rural village of Pencombe in Herefordshire. The group is run by a voluntary management committee and has sole use of the village hall during the session. The accommodation comprises of a main hall, committee room, kitchen and toilet facilities. Children are provided with outside play on the adjoining school playing field. The setting, which serves a large rural catchment area, is situated approximately 3 miles from Bromyard and 13 miles from Hereford.

There are currently 12 children on roll. Of these, 8 children are in receipt of funding for nursery education. Children attend for a variety of sessions and a lunch club on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The setting supports children with special needs. There are no children at present with English as an additional language.

The playgroup opens four days per week during term times. Sessions are between 09:30 and 12:00 on Mondays and Fridays and between 09:30 and 13:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays during school term times.

Three members of staff work with the children supported by parents, committee and volunteer helpers. Two thirds of the staff hold suitable early years qualifications. The group is supported by a mentor teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. They are also members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Pencombe Under Fives Playgroup provides good care for children. Staff have organised the premises well affording good supervision of children and have worked hard to make the premises welcoming and attractive. The group is well resourced and all the equipment is in good condition.

Staff have high regard for children's safety both indoors and outdoors and they continuously evaluate it. Good hygiene routines are in place and children follow good hand washing procedures. Staff have a good understanding of healthy eating and children enjoy snacks that are nutritious.

A good variety of activities encompassing all six areas of development are regularly available. Children show great enthusiasm in their learning and are eager

participants in small and large group activities. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's individual needs and are proactive in providing support, advice and suitable resources and equipment to meet children's specific needs. The staff's understanding of special needs is very good. The thoughtful grouping of children enables them to learn at a pace most suitable for their stages of development. Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and this is reflected in the good behaviour of children.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff liaise with parents on a daily basis and the use of detailed admission forms enables staff to care for children as their parents would wish. They are appraised of their children's progress. Parents are kept informed via newsletters, daily chats and a detailed notice board, however, Ofsted's contact details need to be made more easily accessible.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the nursery agreed to develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met.

The manager has developed a detailed action plan clearly identifying which training courses staff have attended in order to meet training and qualification requirements. It contains details of ongoing training which staff access regularly to develop their practice.

What is being done well?

- Staff demonstrate a good understanding of children's individual needs and are proactive in providing support, advice and suitable resources and equipment to meet children's specific needs. Staffs understanding of special needs is very good.
- The thoughtful grouping of children enables them to learn at a pace most suitable for their stages of development.
- Staff have high regard for children's safety and are continuously finding ways to improve it.
- Staff have a positive attitude towards training and attend as much training as possible.
- Children are enthusiastic learners and participate in well planned activities.
- The premises are well organised enabling good supervision and well resourced, producing an attractive environment.

What needs to be improved?

- the accessibility of Ofsted's contact details.

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	Consider displaying Ofsted's contact details more prominently.

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.