



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 253474

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	07/06/2004
Inspector Name	Katherine Powell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Ancaster Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address	The Parish Hall Ancaster Grantham Lincolnshire NG32 3PW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Ancaster Playgroup Committee
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Ancaster Playgroup Committee
Address	The Parish Hall Ancaster Grantham Lincolnshire NG32 3PW

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

Ancaster Pre-school Playgroup is a committee run group which was first established in 1968. The group operate from the parish hall in the centre of Ancaster. The group have the use of the foyer, main hall, kitchen, toilet facilities and a storage cupboard. There is an enclosed outdoor play area attached to the building. The majority of the children live in the village, however, it does also serve some of the surrounding rural villages.

The group is open each week-day, except Thursday, during school term-time from 09.00 until 12.00.

There are currently 27 children on roll. This includes 15 children in receipt of nursery funding for three-year-olds and 7 children in receipt of funding for four-year-olds. There are currently two children attending with special needs and no children speak English as an additional language.

The supervisor is a qualified primary school teacher. Five other members of staff are employed on both a full and part-time basis. Of these, four have completed or are working towards a recognised childcare qualification. There is a bank of relief staff which includes members of the committee.

The group receives support from the Lincolnshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

The pre-school is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is a registered charity.

How good is the Day Care?

Ancaster Pre-School Playgroup provides good quality care for children aged from two to five years.

Staff work well as a team and have a consistent approach to their work. This is achieved by regular staff meetings and a comprehensive range of policies and procedures. Records are well maintained, however, the visitor's book lacks sufficient detail. Staff are well qualified and are deployed effectively within the setting. Children benefit from high levels of supervision during activities and children with special needs are well supported. The premises are warm, welcoming and well maintained and staff are vigilant about children's safety. Good hygiene routines are promoted,

however, children are not able to make healthy choices at snack time everyday. Staff have forged very good links with the local primary school and have opportunities to share good practice with other professionals.

Staff thoroughly plan a stimulating range of activities which engage children's interest and help them to make progress in all areas of learning. Staff regularly observe and assess children's progress. Staff have formed effective relationships with children and acknowledge and respect their differing needs. Staff make good use of available space and children have regular opportunities to use the outdoor play area. The pre-school has a good range of equipment and children are encouraged to express themselves imaginatively during creative activities and role-play games. Very good standards of behaviour are maintained and staff use praise and encouragement to promote children's self-esteem.

There is a good partnership with parents which is fostered through effective written and verbal communication. Parents receive high quality written information about the setting and the curriculum and they are actively encouraged to be involved in the children's learning. Staff regularly share information with parents about their child's progress and development.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff have implemented effective planning and assessment systems and provide a broad and balanced range of activities to promote learning in all areas. Staff support all children effectively during practical activities.
- Staff have formed effective relationships with the children and are good role models. Children behave very well in response to high expectations from staff.
- Staff give high priority to ensuring children's safety within the setting and on outings.
- Staff work well as a team and have developed a comprehensive range of policies and procedures which reflect current practice.
- The pre-school has developed a good partnership with parents due to effective written and verbal communication. Parents are given good information about the provision, the curriculum and their child's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the system for recording the presence of visitors
- the choice of snack provided for children.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
2	Ensure that times of departure are recorded in the visitor's book.
8	Provide children with a greater choice of healthier options at snack time.

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.