



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127430

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/01/2005
Inspector Name Linda Margaret Nicholls

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Owl Pre-School
Setting Address Packham Road
Northfleet
Gravesend
Kent
DA11 7JF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Owl Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Owl Pre-School
Address Packham Road
Northfleet
Gravesend
Kent
DA11 7JF

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

Owl Pre-School opened in 1976.

It operates from two rooms, with a kitchen and toilet facilities in a modular building with foundations, in Shears Green Infant School grounds in Northfleet, Gravesend. The pre-school serves the local area but people do come from further afield.

There are currently 57 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes 57 funded 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 08.45 - 11.45, Monday to Friday and 13.00 - 15.30 Monday to Thursday.

There are 12 staff who work with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Four staff are starting NVQ II assessment this term.

The setting receives support from a teacher and mentor from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The setting earned the Kent Quality Kitemark in 2004.

How good is the Day Care?

Owl Pre-School provides good care for children. Paperwork is up to date and parents are informed of their child's development. The organisation of the day care is well thought out. There is an operational plan which includes reviewed and dated aims, policies and procedures. Staff work well as a team and minimum qualifications are exceeded. An induction plan for staff is in place. Paediatric first aid training is current. The registration certificate is displayed and the daily registration system records unusual arrival or departure times. The management of the pre-school is pro-active in developing staff qualifications.

The safety and the care of the children is managed efficiently. The premises are secure, visitors are challenged and their details recorded. The room is for sole use of the pre-school. The premises are clean and well maintained. Resources are stored securely. There are written fire procedures and drills are recorded. Risk assessment is undertaken and monitored. Medical and health details are recorded confidentially

and individual requirements are met. Written procedures, policies and consents are available for parents. Parents are informed of child protection issues.

The range and quality of activities is stimulating and encourages positive relationships amongst children. Children are engaged and extend their play confidently. Equipment is presented to create a dynamic environment. Children access toys and materials directly and can request specific items from adults present. Senior staff are experienced and creative in developing activities to stimulate children's all round development. There are colourful displays of children's work. There is a named SENCO although there is no current evidence of the impact of care for children with special needs.

The partnership with parents is sound, information is shared. Written agreements are in place and parents views are sought. The telephone number of the regulatory body is available.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- A key worker system is in place, children's progress is recorded and regularly reported to parents. Parents are informed of the running of the group and the daily routine of their child. Staff know the children well and can extend children's experiences and learning.
- Staff use consistent and positive strategies to manage children's behaviour. Training has been undertaken. Appropriate praise is given. Children know the rules and play within clear boundaries.
- The staff are experienced and pro-active in developing their professional knowledge. Children benefit from an awareness of current ideas and methods.

What needs to be improved?

- the staff's understanding of child protection issues.

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
13	Ensure courses booked to refresh understanding of child protection, are attended and information cascaded to all staff.

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.