



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 131547

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/03/2004
Inspector Name Helen Mary Ball

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Noah's Ark Pre-School
Setting Address Kings Church Centre
414 Coxford Road, Lordswood
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 7LL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Noah's Ark Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Noah's Ark Pre-School
Address Kings Church Centre
414 Coxford Road, Lordswood
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 5LL

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 opened 22 years ago.

The pre-school is a committee run pre-school which mainly serves the local community.

There are currently 37 children from 2 years to 5 years on roll. This includes 21 funded 3-year olds and 10 funded 4-year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is able to support children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.30 until 12.00 from Monday to Friday.

Five part-time and two full-time staff work with children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ Level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

The pre-school provides good quality care for children.

Staff have appropriate qualifications and effective induction procedures are in place. The pre-school provides a fun and stimulating environment, and the staff's calm approach enables children to settle quickly. Children are able to move freely throughout the pre-school without restriction and staff are effectively deployed to ensure children are well supervised. The group provides a good range of toys and equipment, some of which represent positive images of ethnicity. There is, however, a limited range of toys and equipment which represent images of disability. All relevant paperwork is in place and well maintained.

The pre-school is safe and secure. Staff have a good awareness of safety issues and are vigilant in supervising children, whilst ensuring they are unrestricted. The group now needs to extend its emergency evacuation procedures. Children are encouraged to be independent in self-care routines. However, staff do not ensure that children have washed their hands before eating. Children are offered healthy and nutritious snacks and would now benefit from the provision of accessible

drinking water throughout the session. Supervisory staff have an understanding of child protection procedures.

Children are given freedom to choose from a wide range of activities and they have fun. Staff

ask questions to develop children's thinking and offer plenty of praise and encouragement. They know the children well and offer sensitive support when necessary, treating each child with equal concern. Staff work well as a team and are excellent role models for children. The group has a positive attitude to children with special needs.

The pre-school has excellent relationships with parents. Information is shared about the children's progress on a regular basis and parents are welcomed into the setting.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group were asked to ensure that there is hot water in the toilets. This has now been installed.

What is being done well?

- Supervisory staff have appropriate qualifications and staff are continuously updating their training in a range of childcare issues. Effective induction procedures are in place and staff work well together as a team. They are well deployed ensuring that children are continuously supervised. All relevant paperwork is well maintained and stored in a safe and confidential manner.
- The pre-school atmosphere is calm and harmonious. The environment is bright and welcoming enabling children and parents to feel comfortable. Children can access a good range of toys and equipment. The premises are safe and secure and staff have taken relevant steps to reduce any risks to children. Access to the premises is closely monitored. Management have an understanding of child protection issues.
- Children are able to move freely throughout the pre-school. They are able to choose from a wide variety of activities which are attractively laid out, and staff offer sensitive support to enable all children to take part. They know the children well, and treat them with equal concern, asking questions to extend their learning. Children are secure with pre-school routines and actively take part in all aspects, including tidying toys. Children are encouraged to be independent in self-care routines such as taking tissues, blowing their noses and hygienically disposing of tissues.
- The group has excellent relationships with parents, who clearly value the care their children receive. They provide mid-morning snacks in accordance with parent's wishes. They hold parents evenings on a regular basis, and staff are available at the beginning and end of each session to talk to parents. Parents are welcomed into the setting, particularly to help settle new children.

What needs to be improved?

- resources to include positive images of disability
- fire evacuation procedures
- hygiene routines, with particular regard to hand washing
- availability of drinking water.

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
5	Extend resources to include positive images of society, with particular regard to disability.
6	Extend fire evacuation procedures to include provision for children, should re-access to the building be prohibited.
7	Ensure that appropriate hygiene routines are followed, with particular regard to children washing their hands before eating.
8	Ensure that drinking water is available to children at all times.

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.