



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 221769

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 12/05/2003 |
| Inspector Name | Veronica Sharpe |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Setting Name | Caldecote Playgroup |
| Setting Address | C/O Caldecote Primary School Caldecote Cambridgeshire CB3 7NY |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | The Committee of U/A |
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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.

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| Information about the setting |
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| Caldecote Playgroup is a sessional pre school group, managed by a committee of parents. Operating for several years from a mobile classroom in the grounds of Caldecote Primary School, the group has recently relocated to a new community room in the school. Until recently the group served a small village community, however an extensive and ongoing house building programme means the playgroup is having to accommodate much larger numbers of children. The playgroup is open four mornings weekly 9am - 12pm, term times only. The playgroup is registered to accept 26 children aged from 2 to 5 years, at present there are 29 children on roll, 18 of whom are funded three or four year olds. The group has children on roll who have special educational needs, but none who have English as an additional language. Five staff members work with the children, two of whom have at least a Level 3 qualification, two other members of staff are working towards Level 3 and one towards Level 2. Some committee members are able to provide supply cover. The group receives support from an early years mentor from the Care and Education Partnership and is a member of the Pre School Learning Alliance (PSLA). |
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| How good is the Day Care? |
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| Caldecote Playgroup provides good quality care for children aged 2 - 5 years. Staff are confident and well trained, they work as a team and provide effective support for each other. They each take individual responsibility for the successful operation of the group and provide a secure and consistent environment for the children. Staff ensure children are provided with a stimulating and interesting environment. The premises are light and bright and well decorated with examples of children's work, pictures and posters. However, as the room has to be used to store unused equipment, it does not appear to be as spacious as should. Children enjoy a wide range of activities, they have frequent opportunities to choose from accessible equipment and are encouraged to develop independence and extend their own ideas and interests. Although activities are generally safe, at times children have opportunities to access large physical equipment without direct adult supervision. Parents have a good relationship with staff and committee, they are well informed by various means, including newsletters, notice boards and regular formal reports as well as daily discussion with staff. They are encouraged to participate in sessions and have access to well formulated policies, procedures and the operational plan. |
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| What has improved since the last inspection? |
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At the last inspection the group was asked to ensure the heaters do not pose a hazard to children. This action is not applicable as the playgroup has since moved premises.

What is being done well?

Staff are well trained, confident and secure in their knowledge of the curriculum. They work as a team, support each other and take individual responsibility for activities. They plan activities well to provide children with interesting learning experiences. (Standards 2 & 3) The operational plan is comprehensive and well written, it is used as a working document and provides an effective management tool for committee and staff. (Standard 2) There is a high expectation of good behaviour and children are encouraged to develop a sense of responsibility. Children take part in a good deal of non - directive play and therefore develop independence and self restraint. They share and negotiate without staff involvement. (Standard 11) Staff and children interact socially and general conversation is encouraged. They chat together and exchange news and views, particularly at break time. (Standard 8) Staff demonstrate a sound knowledge of child protection issues, there are comprehensive child protection policies to support the good practice. (Standard 13) Parents have a good relationship with staff, they are kept well informed through various means, including newsletters, notice board and daily verbal exchanges with staff. (Standard 12)

What needs to be improved?

space available for children's activities (Standard 4) deployment and vigilance of staff to ensure large physical equipment, particularly the trampet, is supervised at all times. (Standard 5)

Outcome of the inspection

Good

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown

| Std | Action | Date |
|-----|--------|------|
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The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

| Std | Recommendation |
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| 4 | improve space available for children's activities. |
| 5 | ensure large physical play equipment is supervised or inaccessible to 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.