



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 400332

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 01/10/2004
Inspector Name Ann Doubleday

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Stepping Stones Playgroup
Setting Address Stokesley Primary School
5 Springfield, Stokesley
Middlesbrough
Cleveland
TS9 5LW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Stepping Stones Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Stepping Stones Playgroup
Address Stokesley Primary School
5 Springfield, Stokesley
Middlesbrough
Cleveland
TS9 5LW

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

Stepping Stones Playgroup opened about 15 years ago. It operates from a stand alone classroom building in the grounds of Stokesley Primary School in Stokesley, North Yorkshire. It has its own enclosed play area, toilets and wash facilities. The playgroup serves the local area.

The group is registered to care for 21 children. There are sixteen children from two to four years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group is open from 09:00 to 11:30 five days a week during term time.

Three staff work with the children. All the staff have early years qualifications to level two or three. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Local Authority.

How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones Playgroup provides good quality care for children. It offers a warm, caring, welcoming environment where children can feel happy and secure. All the staff have early years qualifications and work well together as a team. There is a good range of appropriate resources easily accessible to the children. All the necessary documentation is in place, although some lacks the necessary detail and staff records are not kept on the premises.

Staff ensure children are safe in the group and there are good procedures in place for the safe collection of children, however a risk assessment of the building has not been completed and the visitor record is not maintained. The good health of children is promoted and positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. Children are encouraged to follow good hygiene routines. A healthy and nutritious snack is provided during the session and staff are well aware of children's individual dietary needs.

A wide variety of good quality interesting resources are readily available. They are used effectively to provide children with interesting play opportunities and to support learning. Children are able to play with the full selection of resources and their individual needs are met well. There is a good range of resources available that reflect equality of opportunity. Children's behaviour is very good as a result of staff's consistent and sensitive handling. They promote positive behaviour and give lots of praise and encouragement.

Partnership with parents is good. Warm relationships are fostered and parents are encouraged to help in the group, on a parent rota. There are effective systems in place for the sharing of information and parents receive clear details about policies and procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- Good relationships are built between the staff and children and between the children themselves. Staff know children well and meet their individual needs well.
- There is a good range of toys and equipment available, suitable for the ages of children attending and staff plan an appropriate range of activities.
- Children's behaviour is managed well by the staff. Positive behaviour is reinforced and children respond well to consistent handling.
- Children's individual dietary requirements are given attention and healthy eating is promoted well.
- Partnership with parents is strong, they are kept fully informed through written documentation, information displayed and daily discussion.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, to ensure a record is kept on the premises of staff details and that Ofsted address and telephone number is included in the complaints procedure
- safety, to ensure a risk assessment is completed and a visitor book is maintained.

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
2	Ensure that staff records are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times.
6	Conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action to be taken to minimize identified risks and maintain a record of visitors.
12	Make sure the address and telephone number of Ofsted is made available to parents in the complaints procedure.

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.