



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 139417

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 24/10/2003 |
| Inspector Name | Juliet Eileen Hartridge |

SETTING DETAILS

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|-----------------|--|
| Day Care Type | Full Day Care |
| Setting Name | Collaton St Mary Playgroup |
| Setting Address | The Parish Rooms Blagdon Road Paignton Devon TQ3 3YA |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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|------|------------------------------------|
| Name | The Committee of Collaton St. Mary |
|------|------------------------------------|

ORGANISATION DETAILS

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| Name | Collaton St. Mary |
| Address | Collaton St. Mary Playgroup The Parish Rooms Blagdon Paignton, Devon TQ3 3YA |

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

Collaton St Mary Community Playgroup opened in 1989, and occupies the Parish Rooms in the village of Collaton St. Mary, which is situated on the outskirts of Paignton. The group has use of the ground floor and the first floor of the building as well as an enclosed garden area.

The playgroup is registered for 30 children aged two to five years, although children are not admitted until the term before their third birthday. The playgroup is open daily during term time from 9:00 to 15:00. Overnight care is not included. A lunch club session is also available for those children who attend on a sessional basis. Sixty-five children aged three and four are currently receiving early years education funding.

The playgroup is managed by a voluntary committee, who employ six staff. The manager has NVQ3 Childcare and Education qualification, whilst five staff have or are working towards NVQ2. The deputy playleader is working towards NVQ3. Staff are very experienced in caring for children who have special educational needs, or have English as an additional language. The group belongs to the Pre-school Learning Alliance, attends regular support meetings with the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, and has very close links with the nearby primary school.

How good is the Day Care?

Collaton St Mary Playgroup provides good quality care for children.

Children are happy and confidently explore the wide and interesting range of activities available for them to enjoy. Children eagerly talk about what they are doing and readily contribute their ideas and opinions. Staff are warm and friendly and interact with the children with enthusiasm. The playgroup is effectively organised, and staff are suitably deployed to ensure the safety of children both indoors and out. Good team-work is most evident. Overall the staff have satisfactory safety awareness, and many procedures and documentation are in place to ensure that children's health and safety is promoted. Good standards of behaviour are evident, and encouraged in a consistent and positive way by staff.

The main playgroup room looks bright, interesting and inviting; children and parents

can readily identify their displayed art and topic work. The playgroup is well equipped with a wide range of resources, including computers and toys made from natural materials.

Children are given a healthy and varied snack, and drinking water is always available. Staff vigilantly comply with children's special dietary requirements. Staff are very aware of the individual needs of children in the group, and this is supported by the assessment and observation system. Good relationships are maintained with parents, who are well informed about the setting. Staff have a secure understanding of appropriate child protection procedures, and their responsibility to protect children in their care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the playgroup was asked not to use the garden unless it was fenced. A new fence has now been installed, and children are able to freely access the garden safely.

What is being done well?

- The playgroup is very well organised. There is a clear operational plan and staff are suitably deployed to ensure that the appropriate levels of supervision are maintained at all times. The group has a strong commitment to training, and the playleader skilfully delegates some responsibilities to staff which enables them to develop their skills.
- Children are happy, settled and very confident. They are very familiar with, and eager to explain the playgroup routines. Staff are calm, warm and responsive towards the children, encouraging their curiosity and development of descriptive and mathematical language. For example children enjoyed exploring 'feely bags', and confidently named the complex shapes they had discovered inside. Staff are caring, and have an obvious enjoyment of their work with children.
- Staff are very aware of the individual needs of children in the group, and positively promote children's awareness of diversity in a relevant and understandable way. Staff clearly value the contact they have with ethnically diverse families. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator has a clear understanding of her responsibilities, and makes good use of professional advice and support.
- The playgroup communicates effectively with parents, who are provided with a helpful and informative prospectus. Parents have frequent opportunities to discuss their child's progress with the key workers. Parents' evenings are also held; the last meeting provided information about activities and play ideas which children could also enjoy at home.

What needs to be improved?

- frequency of risk assessment to include any hazards which may arise during the session.

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 |
|-----|--|
| 6 | Ensure that any hazards that become apparent during the session are removed. |

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.