



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 136021

INSPECTION DETAILS

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| Inspection Date | 10/02/2005 |
| Inspector Name | Valerie Anne Curotto |

SETTING DETAILS

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| Day Care Type | Sessional Day Care |
| Setting Name | Lincombe Barn Playgroup |
| Setting Address | Lyncombe Barn, Overndale Road Bristol Avon BS16 2RW |

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

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| Name | The Committee of Downend Folkhouse Association |
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

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| Name | Downend Folkhouse Association |
| Address | c/o Lincombe Barn Playgroup Lyncombe Barn, Overndale Road Bristol BS16 2RW |

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

Lincombe Barn Playgroup operates from Downend Folk House in South Gloucestershire. Opened in 1968, it serves the local community and is managed by the Folk House Committee. Parents and staff from the playgroup are represented on the committee.

The playgroup has use of two rooms within the centre and children are escorted to and from toilets outside the main playroom. A kitchen is available for use by adults only. While an outside play area is not available, children have regular access to physical activities within the large hall. Occasional nature walks in small groups are possible, within the adjacent garden.

The playgroup provides sessional care for 26 children aged between two and a half and five years. There are currently 33 children on roll, many of whom are in receipt of grant funding for nursery education. The playgroup opens Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings during term time. Sessions are from 09.15 hours to 11.45 hours. An additional session on a Friday afternoon is available, from 12.15 hours to 14.15 hours, for children aged two and a half to three years.

A team of four staff work with the children. Three have an appropriate level 3 qualification in child care and another is currently training. A parent helper supports staff at most sessions.

The group receives termly support from an advisory teacher from the local authority.

How good is the Day Care?

Lincombe Barn Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children.

The spacious hall is set up well before children arrive and provides a welcoming atmosphere for children and their families. A wide range of equipment is available and is well organised within the limited storage. Staff put out an attractive and varied range of equipment each session, although children's independent access is limited. The staff team demonstrate a strong commitment to ongoing training and the development of the provision. Documentation is well organised but aspects of the operational plan lack clarity.

A suitable health and safety policy is in place and staff undertake a daily checklist to ensure the premises are safe for children. Staff monitor security well and take care

to supervise children effectively within the shared building. The child protection policy is not yet fully developed. Children are provided with appropriate snacks and enjoy occasional cooking activities. Suitable information is gathered from parents about their children's health and dietary needs.

Staff plan activities which encourage children to think and develop ideas for themselves. Children are provided with good support by staff who promote discussion and calmly reinforce expectations of behaviour. Children play in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and are well behaved. They appear secure and well occupied during activities, although the transition to snack time is, at times, prolonged. Children enthusiastically use a range of equipment each session for physical activities, including sit and ride toys, a parachute and an obstacle course.

Parents are welcomed and informal discussion with staff is available each session. Children's individual diaries provide useful information about their development, in addition to a more formal system related to the early learning goals. Other information is shared effectively with parents through noticeboard displays, newsletters and the prospectus.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The action raised at the last inspection has been completed appropriately; adjustments have been made to bathroom doors to prevent children locking themselves in.

What is being done well?

- Ongoing commitment by all staff to professional development; regular attendance on courses further enhances their provision for children.
- Provision of good support by staff for children's activities; they ask questions to develop children's thinking, extend vocabulary and offer regular praise for achievements.
- Creation of a welcoming and relaxed environment which fosters children's sense of security and develops their confidence; they eagerly sing solos at circle time and help tidy up.
- Management of children's behaviour which calmly ensures they interact well together and are responsive to staff instruction.

What needs to be improved?

- the operational plan, to ensure it provides clear and consistent information for staff and parents and fully reflects procedures within the setting; in particular, behaviour management statements, complaints procedures, special educational needs policy and staffing ratios for children under three.
- The child protection procedure, to include arrangements in the event of allegations against staff.

- Children's independent access to a wider range of toys and equipment; to further promote the combination of resources.
- The transition from activities to snacktime, to more consistently provide meaningful activity for children.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 | Review the transition to snack time to ensure meaningful activity for children. |
| 5 | Consider ways in which to promote children's independent access to a wider range of resources. |
| 13 | Develop the child protection policy to include a procedure in the event of an allegation against staff. |
| 14 | Continue to develop the operational plan to ensure clear and consistent information is provided for staff and parents. |

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.