



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 400362

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 27/05/2004
Inspector Name Elizabeth Patricia Watton

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name West Cliff Pre School Group
Setting Address Church Square
Whitby
North Yorkshire
YO21 3EG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The partnership of Linda Dossor and Jane Hartley

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Linda Dossor and Jane Hartley
Address Church Square
Whitby
North Yorkshire
YO21 3EG

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

West Cliff Pre-School Group operates in a classroom within the West Cliff Primary School building in the centre of the seaside town of Whitby. It is a private concern managed by the joint owners although they work closely with the school on many issues. The group has been registered since October 1992 and is open from 9:00 am to 12:00 each morning during school term times.

There are currently 31 children on roll and a waiting list is in operation. The group is registered with the Local Education Authority to provide funded nursery education places for those children of eligible age. At present there are 17 three year olds and 11 four year olds in receipt of funding. The group receive support from the local authority in respect of this. There are children with special educational needs attending although none have English as an additional language.

Four members of staff usually work with the children, all of whom have an appropriate qualification. The group also often accommodate a student working towards a recognised qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

West Cliff Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children, some aspects of the care are good. They provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere where children feel relaxed, confident and motivated. The staff have a positive approach to their professional development and use students effectively to increase the level of support for children. The play session is well organised and there are clear routines which the children follow confidently. This helps them to feel secure and settled. A good relationship with the school, in particularly with the reception class teacher, fosters a strong sense of continuity for the children. Documentation is well organised, with most required elements of record keeping completed appropriately. The child protection policy is not very clear regarding how any allegations made against staff would be handled.

Most aspects of the children's health and safety are suitably addressed. Development work to the property is already under way and is creating potential safety problems around the new door. The toilet facilities are good but are not adjacent to the playroom. The staff have attended risk assessment training but have not carried out a risk assessment recently. A basic mid-morning snack and drink is provided and children are familiar with the snack routine. The staff know the children

well and attend to their individual needs effectively.

The children choose from a wide range of accessible and interesting activities. The staff plan the activities around topics sometimes working around particular areas of interest of the children. The successful use of positive behaviour management techniques ensures that children's self esteem is high and strong relationships are developed.

Relationships with parents and other family members are informal and trusting. They receive good information about the group and their children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Satisfactory progress has been made since the last inspection. At that time the group were asked to put in place a clear policy regarding the administration of medication to children and a statement about the protection of children. The group have developed a policy which clearly states their procedures for dealing with children who need medication. The Area Child Protection Committee guidelines are now on file and have been consulted in the preparation of the child protection statement. These measures have increased the group's ability to ensure the children's safety and informs parents about the groups intentions.

What is being done well?

- The children develop strong and trusting relationships with adults and each other. The warm welcome offered to the children enables them to feel confident and secure in their surroundings.
- The staff add to their early years qualifications by continuing to attend training on a range of related topics. Recent topics have included several areas of the early years curriculum and addressing the specific needs of boys. This ensures that the staff are able to broaden their knowledge of child care and development.
- The staff endeavour to accommodate the children's individual interests when planning activities. An area of interest for specific children has been successfully turned into an interesting project on castles. This has linked with several areas of learning. This ensures that the children are motivated and can develop their natural curiosity as learners.
- Behaviour management techniques are used with great success. The adults' positive approach and clear guidance ensure that the children are cheerful and generally behave very well.
- Parents approach the staff confidently for a chat about the morning's activities and the written policy document is available for parents at each session. There are also newsletters when significant information needs to be shared. These measures ensure that parents are well informed about the playgroup.

What needs to be improved?

- the child protection policy, to state clearly how any allegations against staff would be handled
- the safety and security of the children, by carrying out a risk assessment on all areas of the property used.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
13	Provide an action plan which shows how in the child protection policy any allegations against staff would be handled.	30/06/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that records of visitors attending the playgroup are kept up to date.
6	Carry out a risk assessment on all the property used including how the safety of children leaving the playroom to use the toilets will be monitored.

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.