



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 144542

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/12/2004
Inspector Name	Fiona Sapler

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Acorn Playgroup
Setting Address	2 Narford Road Hackney London E5 8RD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Committee of Acorn Playgroup 1072660
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Acorn Playgroup
Address	2 Narford Road London E5 8RD

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

Acorn Playgroup provides sessional day care. They have sole use of an ex-community centre located in Hackney and serving the local community. The playgroup is run by a management committee consisting of staff and parents. The group is open from 09:30 until 12:00, Monday to Friday, for 46 weeks of the year.

There are 16 children aged from two and under five years on roll. Parents work in the playgroup on a rota basis. Two permanent members of staff are fully qualified and additional qualified staff are employed as necessary.

The playgroup receives support and funding from The Learning Trust.

How good is the Day Care?

Acorn Playgroup offers good care. Suitably qualified staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities within the group. Children are well supported in a small but well planned playroom that provides a colourful, welcoming child centred environment and access to outdoor space. A balanced range of toys and equipment provide challenge and meet children's needs and stages of learning and development. All required documentation is readily accessible on the premises although there is an issue about maintaining confidentiality at all times

Staff are vigilant about children's safety and are aware of possible hazards. Effective methods are in place to prevent cross infection and to monitor and record the administration of medication and accidents. Staff have a good understanding of their responsibilities regarding child protection issues.

Children are involved in, and enjoy, a range of stimulating activities. Staff interact with the children and use observations and recordings to plan next steps. Children are encouraged to make choices and decisions. The Equal Opportunities policy is understood and implemented by all staff. Very good attention is paid to ensuring children are taught to value and respect each other's similarities and differences and to ensure the environment, resources, activities and staff reflect diversity within the community. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are implemented within the playgroup, creating a calm environment where children are praised and encouraged to share and cooperate. There is a positive approach to including all children and ensuring individual needs are identified and supported.

There are good relationships with parents who understand their commitment to the playgroup. Initiatives form links between the home and the playgroup to encourage consistency and working in partnership. The playgroup is run by a committee of parents who are fully involved in all decision making.

What has improved since the last inspection?

An action was set to develop a plan for the leader to achieve a Level 3 qualification. The person in charge completed a relevant course in May 2004

What is being done well?

- There is a good level of planning and observation to ensure children's developmental needs are met and regularly reviewed.
- There is an emphasis on providing an environment where children are taught to value and respect each other's similarities and differences and to ensure activities, resources and staff reflect diversity within the community. Children celebrate a variety of festivals and cultural celebrations. Posters and pictures reinforce a positive and inclusive environment
- Limited space is planned effectively and organised into areas to provide a welcoming and well resourced, child centred environment.

What needs to be improved?

- The confidentiality of all recordings.

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.)

A complaint was made on 02/06/2004 alleging that the playgroup had not reported Child Protection concerns to Social Services. An investigation visit was carried out on 10/09/2004 relating to standards 1,13 and 14. Findings were inconsistent with the allegations and changes had already been made to the documentation procedure therefore no further action was taken.

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
12	keep records and documentation in a secure location to ensure confidentiality

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.