



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 110024

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/12/2003
Inspector Name	Mandy Gannon

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Castle Hill Playgroup
Setting Address	Kenilworth Road Basingstoke Hampshire RG23 8JQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Ms Frances Fothergill
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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

Castle Hill pre school is situated within the site of Fort Hill Community School in the area of Winklebury on the edge of Basingstoke.

The group is divided between two rooms, one based in a school classroom and the other based in a new purpose built porta cabin unit. The rooms allow sufficient space for 21 and 26 children respectively a total of 47 children. The group is open Monday - Friday 08:00 - 18:00 and offers sessional and full day care sessions and takes children from two years nine months to five years old.

The group currently has 51 children attending 36 children who are in receipt of funding. Three children attending have special needs and the group has a trained co-ordinator who offers support. The group has concern for children with English as an additional language.

There are 18 staff 17 who work with the funded children. More than half of staff are qualified with NVQ 2's or above, two staff are currently undertaking a foundation degree in early years care and education.

How good is the Day Care?

Castle Hill pre school provides satisfactory care for children. The staff hold suitable qualifications and undertake courses to support their work. Good use is made of the environment although spread over two sites within the school. A wide range of equipment is available covering all areas of learning. The majority of documentation is maintained although some requires updating and confidentiality must be maintained.

Safety is generally well maintained, however not all areas are made inaccessible to children. Health and safety and sickness policies are in place and shared with parents. The majority of staff are first aid trained. Snacks and drink are provided and lunch perishables are stored in the refrigerator. Staff have regard for children with special needs and have an appointed co-ordinator. The staff are aware of local child protection procedure and policies.

A variety of activities are provided to encourage development in all areas, child accessible shelving is available but opportunities for children's independence are limited. The manager and team plan activities. Some staff have limited knowledge of

he foundation stage and further training is planned. Staff have regard to the equal opportunity policy and observe children's individual needs, however all areas in the policy are not implemented. The group has regard for children with special needs and an appointed co-ordinator. Children are well behaved and relate well to each other and adults. A behaviour policy is in place. However, some staff do not adhere to policy and management of children's behaviour is, on occasions, inappropriate.

Parents are made welcome and partnership is encouraged

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Good range of toys and resources are available to provide a good balance of activities to promote interest and learning in all areas.
- Ofsted have been informed of changes in room arrangements in recent times, ensuring registration requirements are maintained.
- Space is well utilised allowing children to move freely to explore and so increase their independence.
- All staff are first aid trained.

What needs to be improved?

- the implementation of the policy on equal opportunities, especially with regard to the employment of staff.
- the register and visitors book need to be maintained and confidentiality of documentation observed.
- ensure all areas children have access too be made safe and secure
- staff's knowledge and implementation of the behaviour policy.

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
6	ensure that children do not have access to the kitchen except with direct staff supervision	16/03/2004
11	develop staff's awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development	16/03/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
2	Maintain adequate contact details of staff, in register and visitors book.
6	Ensure all areas accessed by children are safe.
9	Ensure equal opportunity policy is maintained in all areas and shared with 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.