



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 226344

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/06/2004
Inspector Name Patricia Bowler

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Scalford Playgroup
Setting Address The Methodist Church Hall, New Street
Scalford
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE14 4DP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Scalford Playgroup 1024136

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Scalford Playgroup
Address The Methodist Church Hall
New Street, Scalford
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE14 4DP

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

Scaford Playgroup opened in 1970. It operates from one room in the Methodist Church in Scaford serving the local and surrounding areas.

There are currently 25 children from 2 to 5 years on roll including 12 funded 3-year-olds and 5 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently no children with special educational needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The group operates on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 09:30 to 12:00 during term-time only.

A total of four part-time and full-time staff work with the children. Over half of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level two or three. The setting are members of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and receive support from a mentor/teacher from the Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Scaford Playgroup provides good quality care for children. Staff have a good understanding of the National Standards and supporting criteria and generally interpret them well. The operational plan works well in practice; procedures for deputising are effective and good use is made of staff, space and other resources. Staff work effectively to provide a warm, caring environment but children do not belong to a key group. A wide range of furniture, equipment, toys and play materials are available and documentation is organised and clearly presented.

Children are well cared for by staff who have a high level of awareness of all risks to their health and safety, although steps are not taken to monitor access to the premises during the hours of operation. Children are recognised as individuals with their differing needs met well and clear child protection procedures are fully understood by staff and work in practice.

Staff meet the children's individual needs through sensitive and appropriate interaction. They plan and present a varied range of activities which support and enhance the children's overall development. Opportunities to promote children's independence and choice are encouraged and consequently they are confident and

settled. The methods for behaviour management are sensitive and appropriate to the age and developmental stages and children respond to the consistent expectations from all staff.

Positive relationships are fostered with parents to provide consistent care for children and effective recording systems ensure parental views are acknowledged and respected. Parents receive good information about the setting and staff maintain good quality records relating to children's progress and are available to discuss issues on a daily basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection staff have worked effectively to improve written policies with procedures for child protection, administration of medicine and complaints. Written permission is established with parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice and incident records provide clarity for parents and impact on the welfare of the children. The outside area has been made secure and covers have been fitted to electrical sockets to ensure a safe environment is provided for children.

What is being done well?

- Excellent planning and organisation ensures the provision of a warm, welcoming and caring environment for children and parents.
- Staff have a good awareness of children's individual needs and development and provide a wide variety of play opportunities to support their overall development. Children have opportunity to select and access activities independently with good support and interaction from staff.
- Positive behaviour is promoted well. A consistent approach from all staff results in consistent expectations for children who were observed playing co-operatively and developing good social skills. Children are confident and well behaved and respond positively to staff expectations.
- Good systems for sharing information with parents are in place. Initial information is used to ensure their wishes for the care of the children are recorded and respected. Information relating to the setting is made easily accessible to parents which ensures their knowledge and awareness of policies and procedures.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures to ensure a key worker system is established and to effectively manage access to the premises.

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
2	Ensure children belong to a key group which has consistent staff.
6	Ensure there is an effective system to manage access to the premises.

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.