



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 142969

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/09/2004
Inspector Name Amanda Stewart

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup
Setting Address Village Hall
Oakhill
Bath
BA2

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup
Address Village Hall
Oakhill
Bath
BA2

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

Ashwick and Oakhill Playgroup is a committee run group which was established in 1972. The group operates from Ashwick Village hall in the village of Oakhill, Somerset. The playgroup is registered to care for 24 children aged between two and five years of age. It is currently open four mornings per week from 9.30am to 12.00pm, term time only. The supervisor is qualified to level three equivalent and is supported by a deputy and assistants. There are two children with special educational needs. One child requires one to one care and receives specialist Senco support on the days he attends.

How good is the Day Care?

The group provide a good quality of care.

The group have made creative use of the available space within the building. They organise the area well and plan a wide range of interesting activities, which children take part in enthusiastically. A good range of toys and resources are available for children and many resources reflect positive equal opportunity images. Most operational policies and procedures are in place and staff understand their role and responsibilities. A few policies are not fully clear. Records and documents are up to date, accurate and stored confidentially.

Generally equal opportunity issues are well integrated into activities and toys. Children are encouraged to behave well and treat each other with respect. Staff work closely with parents regarding disability and special needs issues. A staff member has specific responsibility for special needs issues and works on a one to one basis with disabled and special needs children who attend. Staff have a clear understanding of child protection procedures and know which procedure to follow if they have concerns about a child. However, record keeping is not fully clear.

Children are happy and interested in their play and interact positively with staff members. Staff are experienced and understand the care needs and routines of children well. Staffing ratios are favourable and allow staff to work closely with children who may need additional support. There are positive caring relationships between staff and children. A clear behaviour management policy, which encourages praise for good behaviour, is in place.

Staff work in close partnership with parents and encourage regular daily feedback

about children's progress. Clear records ensure parents are kept up to date with their child's development. Parents comment positively on the group's approach and the quality of feedback they receive. Regular opportunities are arranged to meet staff and a new parent's leaflet has been developed.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The group have undertaken a wide range of improvements since the last inspection. They have concentrated on making their policies and procedures more clearly stated and available to parents in the form of an information booklet and separate leaflet. Several staff members have attended training courses to widen their knowledge and continue to improve their practice. A wide range of improvements have been made to health and safety issues, including external risk assessment of the play area and regular internal checks.

What is being done well?

- A clear behaviour management policy is in place which staff understand and apply consistently. Staff value good behaviour and act as positive role models encouraging children to behave well and treat each other with respect.
- Children have access to a wide range of toys and activities, which are both interesting and arranged creatively. This provides children with opportunities to try out new challenging physical activities and to have opportunities to relax in the quiet area with books and soft toys.
- The group are very positive in their approach to equal opportunity issues. Given the size of the group, their commitment in this area is clear. This is well demonstrated in their work with children who have special educational needs. Children are welcomed, provided with one to one support and involved in activities wherever possible. This approach results in a positive and inclusive play experience for disabled children and their peers.
- Staff enjoy being with the children who are in turn happy and busy in their play. Children are keen to be involved in the wide range of play activities and are active in making choices about their learning and play. A clear planning structure ensures that children have opportunities to make these choices.
- Staff work in partnership with parents to ensure that clear lines of communication are in place and that parents are kept well informed about their child's progress. Parents respond well to this approach and describe staff as being friendly and approachable.

What needs to be improved?

- Ensure that the written procedure for lost and uncollected children is clear.
- Ensure that all child protection records are accurate and up to date.

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	Make written procedure for lost or uncollected children clearer
13	Ensure that child protection record keeping is accurate and up to date.

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.