



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 400351

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 30/04/2004
Inspector Name Ingrid Szczerban

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Johns Playgroup
Setting Address St Johns Church Hall
Bilton Lane
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 3DP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Johns Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Johns Playgroup
Address St Johns Church Hall
Bilton Lane
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 3DP

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

St John's Playgroup opened in 1977. It is run by a committee and serves the local community. They operate from the large church hall, in Bilton, on the outskirts of Harrogate. There are currently 33 children on roll. This includes 17 funded 3 year olds and 10 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently no children with special needs or with English as an additional language, attending. They are open from 09:15-12:15, Monday to Friday, during school term time only. Five staff work with the children, three of whom are qualified, and one is currently working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

St. John's Playgroup provides good care for children. The documentation is well-ordered, comprehensive, accurate and mostly up to date, and all necessary written permissions and policies for parents are kept. Staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. Ongoing training for staff is encouraged. The space available is used well and the premises is clean and well-maintained. There are ample toys available, appropriate to the ages of the children, and set-out activities, are easily accessed by them. There is sufficient suitable furniture and resources reflect all aspects of equality of opportunity.

High priority is given to safety issues, inside and outdoors. Generally, satisfactory hygiene routines are followed and healthy snacks are provided for children. The staff have good knowledge of child protection procedures.

The range of provision is excellent and the good balance of activities is reflected in the planning. Children enjoy a variety of stimulating activities which, on the whole, promote development in all areas of learning. The level of interaction between staff and children, is good. Effective and appropriate strategies are used to manage children's behaviour.

Relationships with parents are positive, staff have daily discussions with them about their child. There are also other effective means in place, to share information with parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, it was that; all adults with access to children would be checked as suitable, recommendations from the fire officer, regarding the rear fire door, be complied with, seek parental permission for medical emergencies and to produce a child protection policy.

Appropriate measures have been taken to inform Ofsted of all persons on the premises over the age of 16 years, to ensure they are all suitably vetted, thereby providing reassurance and protection for parents and children.

Fire safety has been improved by following the recommendation by the fire officer to use the door as an escape not an exit, the door has a stiff rubber seal and a push down and out bar, children are not able to operate this mechanism. It is therefore secure for children, yet usable by adults, if needed.

Procedures for dealing with emergency medical situations have been improved by seeking parental consent.

There is now a satisfactory policy and procedure to follow in the event of child protection concerns arising. This ensures that staff can effectively care for all the welfare needs of children.

What is being done well?

- The space available is used well. The large hall is sub-divided, with the use of screens and furniture, to offer clearly defined areas of play. Approximately a third of the space is allocated to physical play, where children can ride bikes and scooters and develop their balance, co-ordination and stamina. There is an outdoor area available when the weather permits.
- Children enjoy a variety of stimulating activities many of which are included a photographic record, the album is freely available for the children to look at. This encourages them to recall events and talk about them.
- Children can watch tadpoles grow in a tank, books and magnifying glasses are available to help them to see and understand this aspect of the natural world.
- Effective and appropriate strategies are used to manage children's behaviour. Staff skilfully direct boisterous children to the area for large physical play, this minimises any disruption of quieter activities. Children are encouraged to become independent and engaged in tasks such as tidying away and pouring out their own water. This promotes their confidence, self esteem and teaches children how to become responsible.
- There are effective means in place to share information with parents. Parents are given an information leaflet, free access to all policies, there is a notice board and a newsletter is produced. Parents who help in the playgroup, are given clear written guidance regarding this role, to help them feel at ease and work as part of the team.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements to fully promote children's social skills
- the frequency of fire drills
- the arrangements to improve hygiene practices

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
3	Review and develop the snack time routine, to promote to the full, children's social skills.
6	Improve the frequency of fire drills.
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing.

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.