



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY257929

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	05/10/2004
Inspector Name	Anne Cooper

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Acorns Pre-School
Setting Address	High Oakham Primary School Nottingham Road Mansfield Notts NG18 4SH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Little Acorns Pre-School 1047641
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Little Acorns Pre-School
Address	High Oakham Primary School Nottingham Road Mansfield Notts NG18 4SH

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

Little Acorns Pre-School opened in their current premises in 2004. It operates in an annexe building at the rear of High Oakham Primary School, on the outskirts of Mansfield. It serves children from the local area.

There are currently 38 children from 2 to 4 years on role. This includes 13 funded 3-year-olds and 9 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a child with special needs and one who speaks English as an additional language.

The group opens Monday to Friday during term time. Sessions are from 09:15 until 11:45.

Five part-time staff work with the children. The play leader in charge has an N.V.Q.level 3 and three staff are working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the Nottinghamshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (E.Y.D.C.P.) and the inclusion support service.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Pre-School provides satisfactory care for children. The premises are light and bright and staff organise the space to allow children to play freely and choose their own activities and resources. Staff use the early learning goals to plan regular topics and children are encouraged to be involved in activities relating to the theme. There is a full range of age appropriate resources available, however some items are difficult for children to access e.g. the books. The documentation is well organised and clearly presented.

There are systems in place to maintain good levels of safety and fire procedures are in place. A daily health and safety check is completed, however staff do not implement risk assessments effectively. Routines are in place to encourage good hygiene standards. Children are offered healthy snacks and a choice of drinks at snack time. There is a written equal opportunities statement in place and children with special needs are integrated into the setting. The staff demonstrate that they have child protection procedures in place.

The planned activities provide a good level of stimulation for the children and they

are interested and enjoy playing with what is available. The resources reflect positive images of modern day society. The staff work in partnership with parents and other agencies to provide a service for children with special needs. The methods for dealing with behaviour are sensitive, appropriate and take into account children's age and stage of development.

Staff have a good awareness of the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers and ensure there is a regular exchange of information between each other.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staff form good partnerships with parents and there are a variety of systems in place to keep parents fully informed about the service e.g. the newsletter and contact book.
- The premises are bright and welcoming and organised effectively. The room is divided into different areas to provide space for active and creative play. The playgroup also have direct access to an outdoor play area which is safe and secure.
- The documentation systems are well ordered and staff ensure that individual records about children are shared with parents.
- The staff demonstrate that they manage children's behaviour effectively. Children are given consistent boundaries and know what is expected of them.

What needs to be improved?

- safety, by developing the systems for conducting risk assessments of the premises.
- equipment, by ensuring toys are clean and easily accessible to the children.

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 should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
5	Ensure that toys and equipment are clean, and that books are easily accessible to children.
6	Develop the systems used for producing risk assessments of 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.