



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 253622

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 06/07/2004  
Inspector Name Christine Bond

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Acorn Pre-School Committee  
Setting Address The Portacabin  
Whaplode CE Primary School  
Mill Lane, Whaplode  
Lincolnshire  
PE12 6TS

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Acorn Pre-School

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Acorn Pre-School  
Address The Portacabin  
Whaplode CE Primary School  
Mill Lane, Whaplode  
Lincs  
PE12 6TS

## 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

Acorn Pre-school is a committee organised group and has been established for over 25 years. The group has exclusive use of a mobile unit in the grounds of Whaplode Church of England Primary School. Part of the school playground is used for outdoor play and the pre-school also have their own fenced area with fixed play equipment.

The group is registered to offer places to 20 children between two and five years. It is open each day of the week during term time between 09:00 and 11:30 and 12.30 to 15:00. Children attending the group are drawn from the surrounding rural area and all speak English as their first language. There are 52 funded 3 and 4 year olds.

The group have close links with the school and are members of the Pre-school Learning Alliance. It is registered to receive nursery grant funding for eligible 3 and 4 year olds.

### How good is the Day Care?

Acorn Pre-school offers good quality care for children. The setting is well organised with mainly effective policies and procedures in place to support the smooth running of the group. The staff team is well qualified, experienced and enthusiastic and they work closely with the committee and parents to create a happy, purposeful and stimulating environment. Staff deploy themselves well around the pre-school and are very clear about their roles and responsibilities. Staff organise and use space well to meet children's needs. Toys and equipment are stimulating and provide sufficient challenge for the children.

Staff maintain good supervision of children and show sound awareness of safety issues around the setting. The premises are kept secure with effective procedures in place for the arrival and departure of children. Staff promote good health and hygiene practices and are aware of children's individual dietary needs. A nourishing snack is provided and drinks are freely available. All children are valued, included and have access to appropriate toys, resources and equipment.

Staff plan and provide a wide range of appropriate activities to meet the needs of the children attending. Children can easily reach and choose a variety of materials for their own free play activities and adult-led ones. Close and effective relationships have been developed with the children and staff support them well in their activities. Positive methods are used to manage children's behaviour.

The partnership with parents is well-developed and effective. Parents receive useful written information and talk regularly to staff about their children. Records are accessible, well maintained and effectively used to support the care of the children.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable

#### **What is being done well?**

- The pre-school is well organised and the staff effectively deployed. Children know the routine and are happy and settled.
- Staff work well together to plan a stimulating learning environment. They use space and resources very effectively to provide authentic and engaging first hand experiences for the children. Equipment is thoughtfully presented and children can make choices.
- Staff manage children's behaviour effectively with praise, encouragement and reassurance given. Children have clear and consistent boundaries and know what is expected of them. Staff have high expectations for all the children and set a good example as role models.
- A warm and welcoming environment is provided for parents/carers and children. Relationships between parents and staff are very good and children are cared for according to parents' wishes.
- Very good use is made of snack time as a social occasion and to promote healthy eating. Children enjoy a nutritious choice of food and the opportunity to chat with each other and staff.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the policies with reference to special needs and equal opportunities

#### **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
14	Review policies to ensure they comply with current legislation and guidance in respect of equal opportunities and special needs.

## **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.*