



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 203797

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/12/2003
Inspector Name Lynn Denise Smith

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Grove Preschool
Setting Address Scout Hut
Villa Road, Stanway
Colchester
Essex
CO3 5RH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Grove Pre-School 1043546

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Grove Pre-School
Address Scout Hall
Villa Road, Stanway
Colchester
Essex
CO3 5RH

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

The Grove Pre-school opened over ten years ago in the existing building and has been running in the Colchester area for over twenty five years. It operates from a scout hall, situated in the Stanway area of Colchester. The Grove Pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 35 children from two to five years on roll. This includes a number of funded 3 and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a small number of children with special needs and who speak English as a second language.

The group opens five days a week during term time only. Sessions are from 09:15 to 11.45 and every morning and 11.45 to 15:00 three afternoons per week.

Six members of staff work with the children. over half the staff have early years qualifications to N.V.Q. level 2 or 3. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from the early Years Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Grove Pre-school provides good quality care for children.

The setting has seen a number of staff changes since the time of the last inspection, these have been handled well and the team are now working well together. Two suitable persons share the responsibility of the day to day running and are supported by a further four staff. The sessions are well organised and good planning ensures that the children have a varied and stimulating range of learning experiences. Staff make good use of the premises, by arranging furniture and equipment well and making the hall bright and attractive with posters and displays of the children's work. There is a good range of equipment. Clear record keeping procedures are in place, however these need reviewing. Some of the policies are out of date and the register and visitors book is not as effective as it could be.

Staff encourage the children to develop an understanding of health and safety issues. They recognise potential safety hazards such as the flooring in the toilets and make alternative arrangements. The children are provided with a well balanced snack, mid session and have the opportunity to attend a lunch club, whereby they

provide their own lunch. More opportunities could be provided to enable the children to develop independence at snack time, through choosing and pouring their own drinks. Staff follow the area child protection guidelines.

Children benefit from a good selection of activities. These are interesting and stimulating. Adult interaction is high, enabling children to develop their language skills. Children are cared for in accordance with their individual needs and provision is made to meet the requirements of children with special needs. Clear procedures are in place for behaviour management. Staff create a calm and relaxing environment in which children are able to develop good relationships with each other and with the staff.

Staff have good procedures for sharing information with parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the time of the last inspection the Grove Pre-school Committee agreed to forward an action plan to Ofsted detailing how they were going to meet the requirements of the suitable person and deputy holding a level 3 qualification, devise an operational plan and devise policies which covered the administration of medication and admission of sick children. There is now a suitable person and deputy in post who holds the level 3 qualification, an operational plan has been devised and clearly demonstrates how the group will run effectively and a medication and sickness policy has been devised.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a well planned session which enables children to have lots of free play and freedom of choice.
- A good range of activities are available to the children. Staff plan the curriculum around themes and topics. Staff interact well with the children helping them to progress and develop in all aspects of learning.
- Good use is made of the space within the hall. Walls are decorated with the children's creative achievements to make it bright and welcoming.

What needs to be improved?

- the decoration and flooring in the ladies toilets;
- the opportunity to develop children's independence at snack time;
- the policies on complaints and child protection and the record keeping procedures for registration and visitors.

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.

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.