



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY291798

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	11/03/2005
Inspector Name	Valerie Fane

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	St Clements Playgroup
Setting Address	Henwick Road Worcester Worcestershire WR2 5NS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St Clements Play Group
------	---

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St Clements Play Group
Address	St. Clements Primary School Henwick Road Worcester Worcestershire WR2 5NS

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. Clements Playgroup operates within St. Clements Primary School. They use the nursery area with a designated classroom and outdoor play area. The group serves the local community and surrounding areas.

The playgroup opens five days a week during term times. Sessions are from 09.00 to 15.15. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are currently 51 children on role. Of these, 11 children receive funding for nursery education. The setting has facilities in place for supporting children who have a special need and for whom English is not a first language.

Five full time and part time staff work with the children. Three staff members have appropriate early years qualifications and one is working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and a mentor teacher and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

St Clements Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children. The staff work well as a team and are supported by the school head teacher. They provide a warm and welcoming environment indoors and outside with clearly labelled displays of the children's work. There is normally an adequate number of staff working with the children, but there have been some occasions recently when the required ratio for two-year-olds has not been maintained. All policies and procedures are in place.

Staff have put in place a comprehensive health and safety policy and carry out regular risk assessments of the premises and activities. They carry out some fire evacuation practices, but do not ensure that children attending for a limited number of sessions all have a chance to practise the procedures. They record details of accidents, medication, and existing injuries, but need to ensure that they obtain a dosage signature for medication.

Staff provide children with a wide range of activities that take place both indoors and outside, making very good use of the imaginative outside play area. They relate well to children and know their individual needs. They have resourced role-play areas well so that they stimulate children's imagination and allow them to develop their skills in several different areas of learning. Staff are consistent in their management

of children's behaviour and have put strategies in place to support children with behaviour problems. They monitor children with special educational needs carefully and liaise with their parents to establish strategies to help their development. Staff would benefit from further training in this area.

The partnership with parents is good. Staff have arranged session times to meet the needs of parents in the local area. Parents are very happy with the care their children receive. They exchange verbal information with staff daily and are kept informed about activities and topics through the notice board and regular newsletters.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff make very good use of the well-designed and imaginative outdoor play area. They have also obtained a large grant to make further improvements. Children use the outside area frequently, even in winter, for a wide variety of activities. They enjoy playing on the mound, riding bikes round the paths and watching trains on the adjacent railway line. They also choose from other free choice activities including sand, colouring, books and role-play. Sometimes structured art activities take place outside. Recently children enjoyed paint throwing over paper people as part of their celebration of Hindu festivals.
- The setting has a clear behaviour policy that staff implement very well, both to manage unwanted behaviour and to encourage good behaviour. Staff encourage children to share and to take turns with the toys and praise them for helping to tidy up. They set clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour and take children aside to talk to them or to distract them when they overstep the boundaries. They have discussed strategies to help individual children to overcome their problems and are consistent in applying these, with effective results.
- Staff have a good partnership with parents. Parents like the care given to their children and feel able to talk to staff about their child's progress at any time. Staff provide parents with regular information about topics and events on the notice board and through regular newsletters. They also hold regular parents' evenings for the children receiving funded nursery education. The group tries to meet the needs of all parents through flexible session times, including organising a direct transfer from the school nursery class for those children old enough to attend the nursery. Nursery staff use a liaison book to share information with playgroup staff when handing children over.

What needs to be improved?

- the number of staff at each session to ensure staff:child ratios are always met

- the practices of fire evacuation procedures to ensure all children are involved
- the procedures for medication to ensure a dosage signature is obtained
- the training opportunities for all staff including training for special educational needs for the named person.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	Ensure staff ratios are maintained at all times.	25/03/2005

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

Std	Recommendation
6	Provide regular opportunities for all children to practise emergency evacuation procedures.
7	Update the medication procedures to obtain a dosage signature for medication.

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.