



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 116260

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	06/12/2004
Inspector Name	Zelda Fay Parker

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Old Town Playgroup
Setting Address	9 Montague Road Hounslow Middlesex TW3 1JY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Committee of Old Town Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Old Town Playgroup
Address	Old Town Playgroup 9 Montague Road Hounslow Middlesex TW3 1JY

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

Old Town Playgroup opened in 1979. It operates from one room in the Hounslow Community Association building, formally the Hounslow Fire Station, a listed building. The local area is both residential and commercial.

A maximum of 20 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The group opens from 09:30 to 12:00, Monday to Friday excluding Tuesdays, and from 12:30 to 15:00 on Monday and Friday afternoons, during term time. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 40 children aged 2 years to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 1 child is in receipt of funding for nursery education. The group caters for children who live within the local and surrounding area.

The playgroup aims to support children with special educational needs, and currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs seven staff. Five of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. One member of staff is working towards a qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). The playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Old Town Playgroup offers satisfactory quality of care for children.

Staff are well qualified and experienced, they provide a pleasant and caring environment for children. There is an established staff team which results in a staff team that works very well together. All required documentation is in place, well organised and easily accessible, despite a few omissions.

Staff give priority in ensuring children are safe both inside and outside the playgroup. However, written risk assessments are not in place and records are not kept of visitors on the premises. Regular snacks are provided. However, drinking water is not available at all times. Staff know how to proceed with child protection concerns but some are insecure in their knowledge and understanding of all categories and signs and symptoms of abuse.

A good range of suitable toys and play equipment is set out each day for the children. The selection is planned to enable children to progress in all areas of development as well as being fun for them to use. Many of the items reflect positive images of diversity within society. The staff demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of supporting children with special needs. A sensitive and positive approach is used by staff when managing the behaviour of children. Strategies are used that are suitable for the age and developmental stage of the child. Praise and encouragement is given by the staff to develop children's self-esteem and confidence.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents have the opportunity to speak to staff on a daily basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection a number of actions were raised with regards to developing an operational plan which is available to parents; ensure gas and electric appliances conform to safety regulations; ensure the child protection procedures comply with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures (ACPC); ensure that all records relating to day care are readily accessible on the premises and conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks. All outstanding actions have been completed, with the exception of conducting risk assessments on the premises and this remains a recommendation to improve the frequency of the risk assessments.

What is being done well?

- Good organisation that enables the staff to work closely with the children and to offer good support and care. Staff are well qualified and experienced, they provide a pleasant and caring environment for children.
- A good range of suitable toys and play equipment is set out each day for the children. The selection is planned to enable children to progress in all areas of development as well as being fun for them to use.
- Staff have a good understanding of health and hygiene practices within the nursery environment to prevent the spread of infection which ensures the well being of children. Four members of staff have current first aid certificates.
- There is a policy in place for behaviour management, which is successful in practise. Positive behaviour is encouraged and children are given praise and encouragement in their daily activities.

What needs to be improved?

- the recording of when visitors are present on the premises.
- the improvement of risk assessments on the premises, identifying action to be taken to minimize identified risks.

- the provision of drinking water at all times.
- staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.
- update the child protection procedure to include details of procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against staff or volunteer

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Maintain a written record of visitors to the premises, which records times of arrival and departure.
6	Conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action to be taken to minimize identified risks.
8	Ensure fresh drinking water is available to children at all times.
13	Develop procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteers.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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.