



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 110713

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 05/05/2004
Inspector Name Sheena Bankier

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Cold Ash Pre-School
Setting Address Acland Memorial Hall
Hermitage Road, Cold Ash
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG18 3F8

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Cold Ash Pre-School 1041160

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Cold Ash Pre-School
Address 3 Almond Drive
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG18 4DZ

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

Cold Ash Pre School was established in 1970 and is a voluntary preschool managed by a Committee of Parents who employ five permanent and one temporary member of staff to work directly with the children.

The group meets in the Acland Memorial Hall, which is a community hall in the village of Cold Ash, which is situated to the north of Thatcham. Various sessions are available, including mornings which can include a lunch club, afternoon and some all day sessions between 9.15 and 14.45. The group have access to the main hall and a smaller room. There is an enclosed garden. Children attend the pre-school from the village and the surrounding areas. Good links are established with the local schools.

There are funded places available for three and four year olds. The group supports children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language.

The pre-school is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and are supported by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Cold Ash Pre-school provides good care for children. Two members of staff hold early years qualifications and one staff member is currently working towards a qualification. All staff are experienced and undertake regular training courses. A welcoming environment is provided to children and parents, through the attractive layout of the hall and through the good relationships established with the staff.

Safety is good, daily checks are carried out and staff closely supervise children at all times. Good health and hygiene is promoted with children through established routines, practices and discussion. Varied, healthy snacks are offered and drinks are available at all times for children. Staff have a good understanding of children's dietary needs. Children are included in all aspects of the pre-school and staff meet their individual needs well. Children who have additional needs are given good support through staff interaction, working closely with parents and the development of individual play plans. Child protection is satisfactorily understood by all staff.

Children enjoy a good range of toys and activities both in and out of doors, which includes local outings. Children are able to make choices on a free play basis. They

explore and investigate a wide range of objects and materials. Staff provide good interaction with the children which supports their learning and progress well. There is a good range of resources which reflect positive images of society. Children's behaviour is generally good, staff manage behaviour appropriately and consistently. Frequent praise and encouragement is given to children to encourage their self esteem and good behaviour.

There are good relationships with parents and the staff work closely with them to meet the needs of children. Parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress and events at the pre-school. Most paperwork is in place and is satisfactory, although some lacks the necessary detail.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable as the last inspection was a transitional inspection to Ofsted.

What is being done well?

- Staff are deployed well with the children and a high ratio of adults to children is maintained which supports children well.
- The children enjoy a wide range of toys, activities and resources which supports their development well. They have opportunities to take part in large and small group activities as well as individually on a free play basis. Staff provide good interaction with the children, they are enthusiastic, interested and involved, which helps children learn and progress. Children are happy and settled in the group and there are good relationships formed with staff and other children.
- The pre-school provides a warm and welcoming environment to children and parents. Staff are available to greet parents and children, there is an informative notice board and the hall is made welcoming through using carpet areas, floor cushions, posters and art work.
- The staff provide children with consistent and positive boundaries and are good role models who manage behaviour appropriately and calmly. Frequent praise and encouragement is given to children by staff which encourages good behaviour, self esteem and confidence.
- The pre-school works closely with parents to ensure they are aware of the children's needs. Parents are kept well informed through regular feedback and discussions with staff, information on the notice board and newsletters. Parents are able to take an active part in the pre-school through the parent helper rota and as committee members.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation;
- keep a clear and accurate record of children and staff's attendance

- keep a record of visitors to the pre-school and times they are present
- ask parents to date as well as sign accident records and ask parents to date and sign records of medication administered
- put in place a volunteer's policy

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	ensure an accurate record of children's and staff attendance is recorded
14	ensure records of visitors and times present are recorded
14	request that parents date as well sign accident records and that records of medication administered to children are signed and dated by parents

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.