



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109432

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/04/2004
Inspector Name	Alison Weaver

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Grovelands Acorns Pre-School
Setting Address	Grovelands School Dunbar Drive Hailsham East Sussex BN27 3UW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Grovelands Acorns Pre-School
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Grovelands Acorns Pre-School
Address	Grovelands School Dunbar Drive Hailsham East Sussex BN27 3UW

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

Grovelands Acorns Pre-School opened in 1997. It operates from a modern purpose built school building with a separate area for the pre-school. It has two playrooms and an outdoor area. The pre-school is situated in Hailsham and serves the local community.

There are currently 62 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 37 funded 3 year olds and 20 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09.00 until 11.30 and 13.00 until 15.30.

Five staff work with the children. All the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. One member of staff is currently attending further training. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Grovelands Acorns Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children.

The staff are all trained and experienced in childcare. They work well together as a team and are very supportive to one another. They are enthusiastic and show commitment to improving practices in the setting. There is a thorough recruitment procedure in place.

The setting is clean and well maintained. It is well organised and child friendly. Staff place strong emphasis on ensuring children are safe at all times. Children develop a good understanding of safety issues. Appropriate health and hygiene procedures are in place, however, the first aid box needs checking. There is a need to review the storage of snacks.

There is a wide range of appropriate resources which are easily accessible. Children are involved in a broad range of activities which promote their individual development. They are interested in the activities and concentrate well. Staff actively seek ways to meet individual children's needs. Children's independence is promoted

in a variety of ways. The staff provide positive support and encouragement which results in children being well behaved. The staff are good role models and deal with inappropriate behaviour sensitively.

The partnership with parents and carers is effective. Parents are made welcome in the group and are able to help on the committee. They are encouraged to discuss their child's progress with the staff. Parents receive a variety of helpful written information about the setting and regular verbal feedback about their child's progress. All the required documentation is in place with further details necessary in some of the policies.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At last inspection the group was asked to ensure that there was a contingency plan in place to cover staff absence. This action has been met as there is a list of named persons that the group can call on in an emergency.

The group was also asked to keep records of staff, committee, and volunteers on the premises. This has been met as the basic details are now available on the premises.

An action was also raised that they should update the policies and procedures so they reflected the practice of the group. This has been partially met as the written documents were updated but some policies still require further detail.

What is being done well?

- Staff are very caring and friendly, creating a relaxed and happy environment. The children are able to play independently and in small groups. They relate well to each other and to adults. The children are happy and clearly enjoy their time in the group. They confidently chat to each other and share their experiences.
- Staff create an attractive and welcoming environment for the children using a variety of posters and displays. They divide the main room effectively into different play areas. The low storage enables the children to develop their independence.
- The provision of a drinks table, both indoors and outdoors, enables children to become independent by serving themselves.
- Children are given the opportunity to play with a wide variety of stimulating and age appropriate activities. The toys are of good quality and are well maintained.
- Staff provide parents with a lot of helpful information about the daily activities, plans, policies, and the Foundation Stage. The open evenings are a successful way of keeping parents informed about their child's progress and for sharing any concerns.

What needs to be improved?

- policies for child protection and complaints
- the storage of food
- the contents of the First Aid box.

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
7	Ensure that the first aid box and its contents comply with Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations.
8	Ensure that all food is stored in a suitable place.
12	Ensure that the complaints policy for parents includes full details of the regulatory body.
13	Ensure that the child protection policy includes procedures in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

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.