



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 311883

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	08/07/2003
Inspector Name	Julie Larner

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Hardman Centre Playgroup
Setting Address	Hardman Centre, Dryden Road Low Fell Gateshead Tyne and Wear NE9 5HP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Committee of The Hardman Centre
------	--

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Committee of The Hardman Centre
Address	Hardman Centre, Dryden Road Low Fell Gateshead Tyne and Wear NE9 5HP

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 Playgroup is located in the Hardman Centre, which was originally a Methodist church until it was converted to a day centre for the elderly and the playgroup.

The playgroup uses the hall area, which is sectioned into specific areas of play; in addition the centre's toilets and kitchen can be used. Children attend from the local community of Low Fell. Opening times are Monday to Friday, 08.45 - 11.30. There are currently 25 children on roll, all of whom are funded. The setting supports children with Special Educational Needs (SEN); no children attending have English as an additional language.

There are four staff who work with the children, all of whom hold an appropriate early years qualification.

The group receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership for one day every year and is also a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

Since the last inspection the group have also begun to receive voluntary support for a child with SEN.

How good is the Day Care?

The Hardman Centre provides a good standard of care for the children attending. The group offers a warm and welcoming environment for both children and parents; this is evident particularly in the displays of the children's work within the centre, which boosts the children's self esteem and confidence. The staff team works well together; they organise the sessions efficiently so that children can gain experiences from several different areas of learning and to prepare children for school. Staff are committed to updating training, enabling them to keep up to date with current practices.

Children are involved in activities that extend their development and staff are very aware of children's individual needs. There is a wide range of equipment available for use, the introduction of "real" and natural objects would enhance this further. Staff teach the children well about respect for their environment. Children have a sound understanding of the routine of the day and are very familiar with the defined areas of learning. Children are confident both in approaching staff and also using

equipment.

The group works well with outside agencies to support the individual needs of children within the group. Staff are alert about safety issues and there are effective procedures for the collection of children and security of the premises. Staff constantly encourage good behaviour and consequently children are well behaved.

Parents are given general information about their children on a daily basis. They are complimentary about the care their children receive from the staff. While paperwork that needs to be kept is adequate, there are a few areas that need to be added to.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to ensure that their child protection procedure was adequate; ensure parents are given feedback about their children, are aware how to complain and also to be made aware of the group policies; put in place an operational plan; ensure vehicle documentation is in place, update their policies in line with the National Standards and identify a named person for behaviour management.

The group has an adequate child protection procedure which covers all of the necessary areas, they have also identified a staff member for child protection. Parents have been sent a letter explaining where the policies and procedures of the group are kept and that they are available for them to see. Parents have been made aware how to complain through the introduction of this in the policy and an explanation of this change in a letter. In the same letter parents were made aware that their children's files are always available and verbal feedback is given on a daily basis for those parents who seek it. An operational plan is in place, made up of the group's policies and procedures. Documentation for vehicles is in place and is kept in the main office. Policies have been updated in line with the National Standards, although one remains outstanding. Named staff have been identified for behaviour management.

What is being done well?

- Staff work very well together as a team organising activities for children with the space available.
- There is a good child:staff ratio, ensuring that children have several opportunities for individual attention from staff.
- Activities are carefully planned to ensure that children have access to a wide range and that they help children to develop. Children have developed a sense of respect for their environment.
- Staff are constantly conversing with the children and show good knowledge of children's individual needs.
- The space within the room is well utilised for displays of children's work. Staff have displayed work creatively.

- There is a clear commitment to keep up to date with current practise through attendance at relevant training courses.
- There is good partnership with other agencies in the care of children with special needs allowing children to develop and fill their potential.
- Children are well behaved due to the consistent and positive approach staff show towards good behaviour.

What needs to be improved?

- the accuracy of records of visitors (Standard 2);
- the provision of more "real" and natural materials for children to use (Standard 5);
- the creation of a policy for sick children (Standard 7).

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
2	ensure that an accurate record of visitors is maintained.
5	consider the introduction of more real and natural objects for children's play.
7	devise a written procedure for dealing with sick children.

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.