



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 507856

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/04/2004
Inspector Name	Sylvia Dindar

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Acorns Pre-School
Setting Address	Hanover Hall Jennings Road, Totton Southampton Hampshire SO40 3BA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Acorns Playgroup
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Acorns Playgroup
Address	Hanover Hall, Jennings Road Totton Southampton Hampshire SO40 3BA

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

Acorns Pre-school. opened in 1989. It operates from Hanover Hall attached to Hanover House in the Totton area. The Pre-school serves the local area. It is registered for 24 children aged from 2 years to under 5 years. The Pre-school accepts funded 3 and 4-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions.

The group opens five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 09:30 until 12:00 and 12:30 until 15:30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

This Pre-School is run by a voluntary committee of parents and carers.

How good is the Day Care?

Acorns Pre-school playgroup offers satisfactory care for children.

Recent changes in staff means that the person in charge does not have the appropriate qualification for her role and staff show limited knowledge of the national standards. The group operates from a hall where good quality equipment and resources are laid out to promote children's independence and learning. Limited documentation is available at the time of inspection.

Staff have an awareness of safety and safety features are in place to ensure children are kept from harm. However, a written risk assessment is not available. Systems are in place to ensure a good standard of hygiene within the group, minimising the spread of infection. Children are offered a diet that is healthy and nutritious, in line with their parents wishes, allowing for individual dietary needs to be met. Some staff have a first aid qualification. Procedures are in place in regard to the safe administration of medication, however, documentation, which allows children to access emergency medical care is not in place. Staff have an understanding of child protection issues and procedures are in place to protect children whilst in the groups care.

Staff interact well with children and plan a range of activities suitable for their developmental needs, including those that teach children about the wider world and the diversity of our society. Behaviour management strategies are in place to deal with unwanted behaviour. All children are valued and included, praised and encouraged, building on their self-esteem. The group understand that some children may have special needs and aim to work with parents and other professionals to

ensure children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The group build strong relationships with parents. Daily verbal feedback and the sharing of records ensures that parents are kept informed of their child's development.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The group have devised a risk assessment, changes in staff mean this document is not available at inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan a well balanced range of activities which cover all areas of learning, for example, children learn about the life cycle of the frog and they are encouraged to observe tadpoles. A cutting and sticking activity showing the sequence further re-enforces their learning. Posters displayed re-enforce language and numbers. Children choose activities freely and know the routines well.
- Staff have a good understanding of behaviour management and appropriate strategies are in place to deal with unwanted behaviour. Children are made aware of golden rules and these are discussed at circle time. Major issues are discussed with parents and appropriate strategies agreed to enable consistency in behaviour management. Children's behaviour is generally good.
- The group builds strong relationships with parents and children are offered a settling-in period so that relationships can be established and information shared. Through discussion and record keeping children are cared for in line with their parent's wishes. The sharing of records and verbal feedback keeps parents informed of their child's development.

What needs to be improved?

- the suitability of staff ensure that they meet the criteria set down in the National Standards in terms of having the appropriate qualification for their roles and responsibilities
- the staffs knowledge of the National Standards and that this is reflected in the groups practice
- the documentation and its availability, which supports the operational plan including staff employment, induction procedures, risk assessments and emergency medical treatment.

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
1	Ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that staff are suitably qualified and experienced to work with children.	04/06/2004
1	Ensure that the person in charge has a level 3 qualification in Child Care and Education.	04/06/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that 50% of staff are working towards or have a level II qualification and that procedures are in place to support new and current staff's development.
14	Ensure that all documentation that supports the operation plan is in place and is available for inspection. Including; employment of staff, induction procedures, risk assessments and parent's written consent for emergency medical treatment.
1	Ensure that all committee member are aware of their roles and responsibilities and that all staff gain knowledge of the national standards ensuring this is reflected in their practice.

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.