



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 218256

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/02/2005
Inspector Name	Dianne Lynn Sadler

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Ark Nursery
Setting Address	St Martins Centre Ellerbeck, Stoneydelph Tamworth Staffordshire B77 4JA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Ark Nursery Committee
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Ark Nursery Committee
Address	St Martins Centre Ellerbeck, Stoneydelph Tamworth Staffordshire

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 Ark Nursery is run by a committee and opened in 1992. It operates from a church centre, situated on a housing estate on the outskirts of Tamworth. A maximum of 20 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 09.15 to 11.45 and 12.15 to 14.45 term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 54 children aged from 2 years 6 months to under 5 years on roll. Of these 29 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs.

The nursery employs five staff. Three of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

The Ark Nursery provides a good standard of care for children. The nursery offers a warm, welcoming environment and uses the space available well to meet the needs of children. There are designated work areas covering the six areas of learning. There is a written operational plan containing mostly accurate records, policies and procedures. There is a very wide range of toys, furniture and equipment available, accessed by children, which is used imaginatively to ensure children are motivated to learn.

All hazards have been identified and minimised, creating an environment where children feel safe and secure. Good hygiene practices are in place and children's dietary needs are met, according to the wishes of parents, with a good choice of healthy snacks provided. There is a wide range of resources reflecting positive images. Routines and boundaries are clear and understood by children, with praise and encouragement being used to reward positive behaviour.

Activities are very well planned and cover all areas of learning, with children being encouraged to make choices and develop their independence. The staff work very well together. There is a commitment to training and developing the nursery and good progress is being made. Interaction between adults and children is very good, with adults listening to what children say and do and respect being encouraged. The staff have a very pro-active approach to inclusion and the needs of all children are

understood and met very well.

The nursery works very effectively with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met well according to their wishes. There are good procedures in place for sharing records with parents and keeping them well informed about the setting. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's learning, ensuring good links between home and nursery.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Not applicable, as there were no actions raised at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The planning and presentation of activities and stimulating play opportunities which cover all areas of learning, with children being encouraged to make choices and develop their independence.• The interaction between adults and children, with adults listening to what children say and do and respect being fostered.• The commitment to training and developing the nursery, ensuring all aspects of learning are covered and children make good progress.• The provision of a wide range of good quality resources, which is used imaginatively to ensure children are motivated to learn.• The management of children's behaviour. Children are able to share, take turns and co-operate in groups.

What needs to be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arrangements to record children's times of arrival and departure• arrangements to review and amend policies and procedures.

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
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
12	Ensure the complaints policy includes Ofsted's details.
2	Ensure times of arrival and departure for children are recorded.

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.