



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109897

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/06/2004
Inspector Name Anne Munro

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Creche Day Care
Setting Name Romsey Opportunity Group
Setting Address The Appletree Centre
Princes Road
Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 8DS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Romsey Opportunity Group

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Romsey Opportunity Group
Address The Appletree Centre
Princes Road
Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 8DS

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

Romsey Opportunity Group has been registered since 1984. It operates in the Appletree Centre, a Social Services building in Romsey, and has the use of a main play room and smaller rooms, the kitchen, toilets and an outside play area. The opportunity group is managed by a voluntary committee of parents and representatives of the local community. It is a creche facility, caring for children with special needs from Romsey and the surrounding area. The setting is registered to accept up to 18 children aged from 0 to under 5 years. There are currently 15 children on roll.

The group opens on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in term time. Sessions are from 10:00 to 12:00. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are 15 members of staff working with the children, the majority in a voluntary capacity. Two full time staff members have early years qualification to NVQ level 3. The setting is a member of the Preschool Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Romsey Opportunity Group provides good care for children. The group is managed by an active voluntary committee, providing strong support to a very experienced staff. Staff are committed to updating their skills and knowledge with ongoing training, enabling them to meet children's specific needs and to continue developing the provision. They provide a very good range of toys and equipment, including specialist equipment when it is needed. Most policies and procedures underpinning the running of the group are clear and effective.

Staff have good understanding of safety issues and carry out regular risk assessments. They provide high levels of supervision and have precautions and procedures in place to safeguard children. They promote good hygiene practice and have procedures in place to deal with illness or injury. Staff prepare nutritious snacks and encourage healthy eating habits. They are experienced in catering for allergies and special diets.

An effective keyworker system results in staff having a good knowledge of the needs of the children in their care. They plan a wide range of activities to promote the development of individuals, with advice from visiting professionals to ensure that special educational needs are addressed. Staff interact well with the children,

encouraging their communication skills and developing their confidence. They are skilled in managing challenging behaviour and use praise and encouragement to promote self-esteem.

Partnership with parents and carers is very good. They receive good information about the group and about their children's progress. They are able to discuss any concerns with staff and are made welcome in the group, joining in fundraising and social events and contributing to the management and development of provision.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Very experienced and dedicated staff members are committed to ongoing training to continue updating their skills and knowledge. Most of them have worked at the group in a voluntary capacity for many years and have developed a very good understanding of the needs of children and their parents. They maintain high staffing ratios enabling them to provide good levels of supervision and attention to children's individual needs.
- Staff liaise closely with other professionals to ensure that special needs are identified and addressed appropriately. A speech therapist and music therapist work regularly with the children and staff use reports from a range of specialists to help them plan a wide range of stimulating activities to promote children's development.
- Good working relationships are developed between staff and parents, based on constant communication. Staff provide parents with good information and support. Parents and carers are able to contribute to the assessment of their children's progress and are encouraged to share in their children's learning, accompanying them on outings. Parents are responsible for the management and development of the group and are active in supporting fund raising and social events.

What needs to be improved?

- records of medication administered
- the complaints procedure
- the child protection 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
7	ensure that records of medication administered are kept up to date
12	amend the statement of procedures to be followed where a parent has a complaint, to include Ofsted as the regulating body.
13	amend the child protection policy to include procedures to be followed in the event of allegations against a member of staff.

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.