



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 140859

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/02/2004
Inspector Name Maxine Coulson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Little Ashes Pre-School
Setting Address The Village Hall, Horsepond
Rotten Row, Great Brickhill
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK17 9BA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Little Ashes Pre-School 1020026

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Little Ashes Pre-School
Address 1 Holts Green
Great Brickhill
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK17 9AJ

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

Little Ashes Pre-School has been registered since 1995. It operates from the local village hall in Great Brickhill, Milton Keynes. The children who attend are from the local community and surrounding areas.

The group is open from 9.15 - 12.00, five days a week term time only. The children attend a variety of sessions. They are registered for 26 children from 2 years to under 5 years and currently have 24 children on roll.

The group have funded three and four year olds attending and support children with special needs and English as an additional language.

There is one full time and five part time members of staff working with the children of, which three have Early Years qualifications. One member of staff is currently on training.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Ashes Pre-School provides good quality care for children. The spacious premises give the children the opportunity to take part in a range of stimulating and fun activities. Effective use is made of the staff and resources to ensure that all the children are well cared for.

There are a range of procedures and safety measures in place to ensure the children are protected and safe and that the premises do not pose a hazard. The staff have a good understanding of safety issues and areas for children's health are addressed. The staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and procedures, however, training needs to be updated. The group offers snacks and drinks for the children during the sessions.

The children make choices about their play and are supported by interested and enthusiastic staff and volunteers. They develop good relationships with the children who are happy and settled. Staff plan and implement a range of interesting activities linked to weekly themes which the children are eager to participate in. The staff know the children well and take account of individual needs. The children respond well to their praise and encouragement and feel secure in the boundaries set. The staff are calm and consistent in managing the children's behaviour. Staff acknowledge differing family backgrounds and encourage a greater understanding

of the world by providing a selection of resources and opportunities to celebrate cultural festivals and events.

The staff develop good relationships with the parents. They are kept well informed about the daily activities and are provided with written information on a regular basis. Most required policies and procedures are in place, but parents are not always encouraged to familiarise themselves with them. All the relevant paperwork is in place although sometimes lacks the necessary detail.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- There is a stimulating range and balance of activities that help the children progress in all areas of development and support their language, imagination and creativity. The children interact well with each other, make their own decisions and are interested and enjoy their play. The staff talk, listen, praise and question the children consistently throughout the session.
- The group provide a good range of toys and equipment for both indoor and outdoor play. The toys and equipment provide challenges for the children as well as being appropriate to their ages and abilities. The children can access the toys and equipment easily.
- The staff know the children well and meet their individual needs. They provide a good and varied range of resources and equipment to help the children learn about differences and the wider world. The toys and equipment also reflect diversity and positive images.
- Staffing arrangements, resources and the environment are adapted to help children with special needs take part in activities. All children are valued, included and their individual needs met. The staff have regard for the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Needs.
- Procedures for managing children's behaviour are understood and implemented consistently by all staff. Methods of managing the children's behaviour are appropriate to their ages and level of understanding. They help the children acknowledge their feelings and how to deal with them and the staff praise and encourage good behaviour at all times.

What needs to be improved?

- policies and procedures, availability to parents.
- training, child protection issues and procedures.
- documentation, written procedure for lost children, details in records of accidents on premises, signatures of visitors.

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
14	Ensure all records relating to accidents on the premises are recorded in full with a parent's signature.
14	Devise and put into place a procedure for lost 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.