



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 205553

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	01/11/2004
Inspector Name	Sandra Jean Russell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Avenue Playgroup
Setting Address	St Andrews Youth Hall Charles Street Cleethorpes North East Lincolnshire DN35 8QB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Avenue Playgroup 1041453
------	---

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Avenue Playgroup
Address	St Andrews Youth Hall Charles Street Cleethorpes North East Lincolnshire DN35 8QB

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 Avenue Playgroup operates from St Andrews Youth Hall, in Cleethorpes. It has operated from these premises for 13 years and is run by a voluntary management committee. Children attending come from the local community.

The group has sole use of the large hall whilst playgroup sessions are in operation. Kitchen and toilet facilities (including one disabled toilet) are also available. There is no outdoor play space.

The group is registered to provide care for twenty-four children aged from two to five years.

There are currently 23 children on roll. The playgroup opens from 09:30 to 12:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and from 12.45 to 15.15 on Wednesday afternoon, term time only. The playgroup supports children with special educational needs.

Five staff are employed at the setting. The playgroup receives the support of the North East Lincolnshire Early Years Service and The Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

The Avenue Playgroup provide good quality care for children. The accommodation is clean and safe. Clear hygiene routines ensure that the children have regard for these matters. The individual attention by the friendly staff ensures that the children feel secure.

A very good range of toys and equipment provides children with opportunities to develop and learn through their play. The activities provided help the children to progress and play imaginatively. Staff are sympathetic to the individual needs of the children and provide them with the care and attention they require.

Behaviour is managed very well. The children are encouraged to share and take turns. They have regard for each other and participate well.

Most of the documentation is in order. Parents are provided with clear information at the start of a placement when the policies and procedures are shared with them. Regular meetings and ongoing verbal exchanges ensure that they are kept informed of their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to produce an action plan outlining how the manager's qualification requirements would be met; the manager now holds NVQ level 3 in Child Care and Education.

They agreed to increase the staff's knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity issues; the group are now able to demonstrate their understanding of these issues through their use of activities and resources that are used effectively to encourage the children to respect and acknowledge diversity; the individual needs of children are addressed and children are encouraged in non-stereotypical play activities.

The group agreed to review their medication policy and procedures are now in place to record parental consent to administer medication.

What is being done well?

- A warm welcome is extended by the friendly staff who work well together. They are involved and interested in the children. Through questioning, listening, observing and talking to them, they get to know the children well and are able to ensure that they settle and feel comfortable in the group. Children who are new to the setting are offered individual attention appropriate to their needs.
- An interesting and varied selection of activities such as water play, computer games, growing seeds, role play, art and craft ensure that the children have opportunities to explore and investigate. Their imagination is fostered through the use of simple resources such as cardboard boxes and stories. They learn to acknowledge and respect different cultural differences, such as what it is like to live in a tent, or to wear different clothes. As no outdoor play space is available, the group regularly organise outings into the local environment to visit shops, the beach, parks and farms, providing the children with an understanding of their community.
- The staff work closely with parents and professionals to provide individual care plans for children with special needs. Ensuring that their individual needs are met and that proactive strategies are in place.
- Behaviour is managed very well. They are encouraged to share and take turns through their games and activities. Staff praise and encourage the children where appropriate. Also by awarding certificates to those who have behaved well, by being kind, doing good deeds etc. and entrusting 'Teddy' into the care of a particular child each weekend their pride and self esteem are fostered.

What needs to be improved?

- the documentation, by recording the hours of children's attendance, devising a procedure for lost children and ensuring that records of administered

medication are signed daily by the parent.

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 the hours of children's attendance are recorded.
2	Devise and implement a procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost.
7	Ensure that parents sign the records of medication on a daily basis.

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.