



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 251558

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	29/11/2004
Inspector Name	Hazel Meadows

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Acorns Pre-school Playgroup
Setting Address	Sidegate CP School Sidegate Lane Ipswich Suffolk IP4 4JD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Little Acorns Pre School Playgroup 1031114
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Little Acorns Pre School Playgroup
Address	Sidegate Lane Ipswich Suffolk IP4 4JD

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 Acorns Pre-School Playgroup opened at it's present location in 1994.

It operates from a portacabin building situated in the grounds of Sidegate Lane Primary School, in a residential area in north east Ipswich. A maximum of 16 children may attend the playgroup at any one time.

The playgroup is open from 09:10 until 11:45 and 12:25 until 14:55 Monday to Friday, term time only. There is a safe, enclosed outdoor play area comprising of grass and safety surfaces.

There are currently 56 children aged from two to under five years on roll. Of these, 46 children receive funding for nursery education. Children primarily come from the local area. The playgroup supports children with special educational needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs ten part time staff. All of the staff currently hold a Level Two early years qualification. One of the play leaders has a Level Three qualification and two of the staff, who have recently taken on the role of play leader, are working towards a Level Three qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Pre-school Playgroup provides good quality care for children.

The pre-school is friendly and welcoming to children and their parents and carers. Staff establish good relationships with parents and to work with them in the best interests of their child. Parents have opportunities to become involved on the parent rota and are actively involved on the committee.

The group is inclusive in its practice. Staff know the children well and value them as individuals. They have a positive approach to diversity and promote equality of opportunity, which is reflected in some of the books and resources available. They ensure that all children with special needs are adequately supported to participate in the activities available .

A broad range of activities and resources is provided to promote children's progress in all areas of their development. Children enjoy their play and independently access the activities provided although at present there are limited opportunities to select

their own resources. At times, the activities do not provide sufficient challenge to more able children and this occasionally leads to unwanted behaviour. Staff are well deployed and attentive to the children and most are skilled at engaging in the children's play to extend their learning and focus.

All staff have good awareness of health and safety issues and there are at least two members of staff present at each session who hold a current First Aid certificate. All staff have attended Child Protection training but need to be clear of procedures and ensure any concerns are handled confidentially by trained staff.

At present only one of the play leaders is trained to NVQ Level 3. The two other play leaders are working towards their NVQ Level 3 early years qualification.

All the necessary documentation is in place however some amendments and additional detail are required to the complaints procedure, accident recording and children's records.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to minimise all safety hazards to children and carry out regular risk assessments; ensure that toys and equipment are kept in good clean condition; ensure that all staff are thoroughly vetted; ensure that accidents are clearly recorded and entries signed by parents; establish an effective registration system of children's and staff's attendance, including arrival and departure times.

All the above have been rectified satisfactorily.

Potential hazards have been addressed with a stair gate across the kitchen doorway, the store room is kept closed and the gap underneath the portable building has been filled in. The group has established a monthly written risk assessment and undertakes daily visual checks and toys are now cleaned regularly. All staff have completed CRB disclosures and health forms. Staff have established an effective registration system enabling them to identify who is on the premises at any given time. Accidents are clearly recorded in a Preschool Learning Alliance accident record book, however entries are not confidential.

The group also agreed to ensure resources and plans effectively support children who have English as an additional language. This has been partly addressed but is an area for ongoing improvement and development with the group. The group also agreed to ensure all staff are familiar with local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. All except two staff have attended child protection training however staff need to be clear of what to do in practice and to ensure that any potential child protection concerns are dealt with in confidence by trained staff.

What is being done well?

- There is a good level of safety and security at the group to ensure children's wellbeing at all times. The premises are kept secure with high level handle

and locks plus secure catches on the outside gates. All visitors to the group are monitored.

- Staff have an inclusive practice to ensure children are valued and accepted as individuals. They put extra staff in place when required to ensure that individual children are adequately supported and able to participate at a level appropriate to their needs.
- Staff are committed to the ongoing improvement and development of the group and themselves and have attended training which is put into practice to enhance the running of the group.
- The pre-school establishes good relationships with parents. Parents are welcomed into the group and encouraged to contribute and also take part on the committee. Staff are friendly and approachable and information is frequently exchanged to promote continuity of care.
- Information about the group is available through a well written information brochure, and newsletters and posters keep parents updated about recent and forthcoming events.

What needs to be improved?

- planning and provision of resources to ensure sufficient challenge for the children present
- confidentiality of accident records
- the complaints policy
- staff knowledge of child protection procedures
- staff knowledge and handling of child protection concerns
- parents/carers details required on children's record forms

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
5	ensure toys and activities available present sufficient challenge to more able children
7	ensure accident records are recorded confidentially
12	ensure the complaints procedure includes the name, address and telephone number of the regulator
13	increase staff knowledge of the child protection policy and procedures to be followed in the event of child protection concerns and ensure any concerns are dealt with in a confidential manner by trained staff
14	ensure parents/carers names and addresses are stated on the children's records

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.