



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 129363

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 09/02/2004
Inspector Name Jane Mount

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Little Acorns - Warners End Playgroup
Setting Address Warners End Community Centre
Stoneycroft, Warners End
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
Hertfordshire
HP1 3QG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Warners End Neighbourhood Association
302384

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Warners End Neighbourhood Association
Address Warners End Community Centre
Stoneycroft, Warners End
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP1 3QG

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 takes place in Warners End Community Centre, Warners End, Hemel Hempstead. The leaders are Sylvia Collins and Jane Howard and it is managed by Warners End Neighbourhood Association.

The pre-school have sole use of a large playroom with kitchen facilities, toilets, a quiet room, a secure outside play area and parking is available nearby. It is open Monday to Friday mornings between 09:15 and 11:45, term time only. The provision is available for 20 children from 2 years 9 months to under 5 years.

The group currently have 3 funded three and four year olds and offers a play based curriculum linked to the Early Learning Goals.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Pre-School provides good quality care for children.

A stimulating, secure environment is provided that allows young children to develop and learn through play. The children's care, learning and play are supported well by staff who monitor the children's progress through regular observations.

Space is generally organised effectively and staff positively reinforce acceptable behaviour. The dietary needs are met well with the children taking an active part in snack time. The special dietary requirements are sensitively cared for with information being recorded and shared with all staff.

There is an effective keyworker system which enables staff to establish positive relationships with children and parents. Information is shared regularly and parents are kept well informed of their child's progress. The group's policies and procedures are available to parents and these are overall comprehensive. A newsletter is also produced on a regular basis.

Documentation is generally good and staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are keen to develop their skills through regular training. High priority is given to keeping the children safe with effective systems in place for the safe arrival and collection of children.

Play materials available provide stimulating activities and play opportunities that are appropriate for the ages and individual developmental needs of the children.

Displays and resources reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the pre-school agreed to conduct a risk assessment of the premises and there are now plans in place to identify and reduce risks and hazards on the premises, both inside and outside.

It was also agreed to ensure all electrical equipment is checked and this has been completed by a electrician and the pre-school have a current portable appliance test certificate.

What is being done well?

- A stimulating environment is provided in which young children can develop and learn through play. Long, medium and short term plans are in place and the staff monitor the children's progress. The children are involved in activities where they can explore and investigate. (Standard 3)
- Toys and equipment are stimulating, fun, and provide sufficient challenge. The children are interested in what is available and a balanced range of activities is provided that promotes children's learning in all areas. (Standard 5)
- Staff sit with the children at snack time encouraging conversation skills. Independence is encouraged with children giving out cups etc. (Standard 8)
- A welcoming environment is provided. Staff work in close partnership with parents and parent questionnaires reflect this with comments such as 'staff are always available and happy to discuss any concerns'. (Standard 12)

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures for staff induction. (Standard 2)
- the organisation of available play space (Standard 4)
- documentation relating to medication procedures. (Standard 7)

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 there is clear policy regarding the administration of medication.
2	Ensure there is a written Induction Programme which staff complete in their first week of employment.
4	Ensure all areas are used to their full potential while still ensuring correct staff to child ratios. (This refers to the quiet room.)

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.