



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 126961

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/08/2004
Inspector Name	Linda Margaret Nicholls

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Acorns Club (Cascades)
Setting Address	Thong Lane Gravesend Kent DA12 4LG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Gravesham Community Leisure Ltd
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Gravesham Community Leisure Ltd
Address	Cascade Leisure club Thong Lane GRAVESEND KENT DA12 4LG

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

Acorns Club (Cascades) Holiday Playscheme opened in 1984. It operates from a leisure centre in Gravesend. The playscheme serves the local area.

There are currently 80 children from 5 to 15 years on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during school holidays. Sessions are from 08.30 to 18:00.

There are 12 staff working with the children. Over half the staff working with the under 8's have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. All staff receive a day's in-house training per annum.

How good is the Day Care?

Acorns Club (Cascades) provides satisfactory care for children. The organisation of paperwork is improving with application systems recording most required information, although policies and procedures are undated and specific times of attendance are not recorded. There is no written complaints procedure specific for the playscheme. An induction pack is given to all staff, volunteers and committee members which includes information covering health and safety procedures, child protection, equal opportunity policy and behaviour management. The playscheme operates within a leisure centre which completes regularly risk assessments and provides specialist coaches, swimming lifeguards and large equipment for sports activities.

The safety and care of the children is satisfactory. All safety requirements are in place. Health records are kept although written consents to administer medication and to seek emergency advice or treatment are not available. Parents are involved in the food arrangements of their child. Senior staff have attended training this year to develop methods for the inclusion of all children and there are good links with a local charity for the support and training of adults working with children with a wide range of disabilities.

The range and the quality of the activities and their effect on children's well being, development and learning is very good. Swimming is complimented with arts, craft,

music and dance. There are competitive and group games. Children make decisions throughout the day's schedule, relate to others kindly and with respect. Children are not asked for their input to the acceptable rules of behaviour, nor are they given written information of the weekly planned activities.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory. Information is shared although this does not include an action plan setting out recent and future plans for staff training which was agreed as an action at the last inspection in April 2003.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The provider agreed to maintain clean toilets. The toilets are cleaned by leisure centre staff

and children are safe from infection.

The provider agreed to ensure healthy eating. The playscheme now offers children fruit for purchase at snack time. Children may choose to eat more healthily.

The provider agreed to write an action plan detailing staff training plans. This has not been done, although a day of training is planned for all staff each year. Parents are not informed of individual staff development and levels of qualification.

What is being done well?

- The playscheme has growing links with the Parents Consortium which supports and trains those who work with children with disabilities. Positive and pro-active decisions are taken to increase all children's respect for each others' differences. Children are valued for themselves, included in all activities with their peers and their individual needs are met.
- The playscheme plans stimulating whole group activities which encourage social interaction, the development of physical coordination, rhythm and the use of memory. Swimming sessions are complimented by music based activities, sports and collective games with a parachute. Children are engaged and happy in their play.
- The staff work well together as a team. Activities are planned and staff know the structure of the session. They relate to the children in a friendly, warm manner. Children are growing in confidence and developing independence.

What needs to be improved?

- the detailed record of hours of attendance of children and staff
- the reviewed policies and paperwork to be dated for parents information and to include details of recent and future individual staff training and qualifications
- the written information for children to include weekly activities timetable and their rules for unwanted behaviour.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
12	Make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.	03/08/2004
14	Ensure that all records relating to day care activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times.	02/08/2004
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and before administering medication to children.	01/08/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
6	Ensure passwords for children's collection are held securely.
2	Develop an action plan informing parents of recent and planned staff training and improve the system for registering children and staff to show hours of attendance.
7	Devise methods to increase confidentiality when recording accidents or the administration of medication.

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.