Office for Standards in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113761

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/01/2005
Inspector Name	Elaine Simmons

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Crickets Playgroup
Setting Address	St Johns Pavillion Park Road Burgess Hill West Sussex RH15 8HG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of The Crickets Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	The Crickets Playgroup
Address	St Johns Pavillion Park Road Burgess Hill West Sussex RH15 8HG

This inspection was carried out under the provisions of Part XA of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by the Care Standards Act 2000

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

Crickets Playgroup opened in 1994. It operates from a sports pavilion in St John's Park in Burgess Hill. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently 26 children from 2.5 to 5 years on roll. This includes 21 funded three-year-olds and 2 funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is not currently supporting any children with special needs but has one child with English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:30 to 12:00, with an afternoon session on Mondays from 12:15 to 14:45

There is one full time, four part-time and one bank staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and the playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

The Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children. The staff are friendly and kind they offer children a caring environment where they can learn and develop confidently. The premises are clean and well maintained. Staff provide a variety of interesting toys and equipment to enable children to develop their imagination, social and intellectual skills. Most paperwork is up to date and in order. There are good policies and procedures in place, for staff to follow, however some have not been up dated.

Good security procedures are in place and staff ensure children are safe at all times, but visitors do not always sign in and out. Staff do not have current first aid certificates, but have secured places on a first aid course. They encourage good hygiene routines with the children, but these are not consistently applied. Children are offered good nutritious, healthy snacks and drinks. Staff are aware of individual children's dietary needs. They work with parents to provide appropriate care, but do not always obtain sufficient information to meet individual children's needs. All child protection requirements are understood.

Staff plan and provide a range of varied activities to help children develop and learn.

They have few resources to reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability. Staff have good behaviour management techniques which helps to build children's self esteem. They give lots of praise and encouragement to the children.

Staff foster good relationships with parents, they provide good information on the parents notice board to keep parents up to date with, children's activities, Early Learning Goals and the Foundation Stage.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff plan and provide a varied range of activities, toys and equipment to enable children to develop their imagination, social and intellectual skills.
- The staff use good behaviour management techniques, giving children praise and encouragement at all times.
- Staff foster good relationships with parents and provide good information to keep parents up to date with the children's activities.

What needs to be improved?

- the maintenance of all required documentation
- the hygiene routines at snack time
- the qualifications of staff in first aid
- the range of resources to reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability
- the Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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 should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure the time of arrival and departure of all visitors is recorded.
2	Expand the Lost and Uncollected child policy to include a procedure for contacting parents/emergency contact within a reasonable period of time.
7	Obtain written permission from parents for any emergency medical treatment.
7	Ensure at least one member of staff holds a current first aid qualification at each session.
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are maintained at all times.
9	Ensure sufficient details are obtained from parents to enable staff to meet individual children's needs, and that sufficient resources are available to reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability.
13	Expand the Child Protection policy to include a procedure in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff .

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.