



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 137266

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/01/2005
Inspector Name Carol Ann Jeffrey

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Absolute Beginners
Setting Address St Giles Community Centre
Farnborough Village
Farnborough
Kent
br6 7ar

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs D Pedder

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

Absolute Beginners Pre-school is a privately owned service which has been registered since 1994. The group operates from St Giles Community Centre, located in Farnborough Village in Kent.

Registration is for 24 children aged from two to under five years, with a maximum of eight children under three years. The group accept children aged from two and a half years. Morning sessions are provided, term time only, Monday to Friday, 09.15am to 12.15pm. There is one main play room with a separate room used for structured activities and small group sessions.

There is a daily attendance of 4 staff, one of whom has the Diploma in Pre-School Practice and another has the Foundation in Pre-school Practice. There is also a qualified primary school teacher who attends on 3 mornings a week on a supernumerary basis.

The pre-school is registered with the Local Authority's Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) to receive the nursery education grant for funded three and four year olds. There are currently 33 children on the register, of whom 19 are funded three year olds and 4 are funded four year olds. The pre-school supports children with special needs and those who are learning English as an additional language.

Activities are pre-planned in accordance with the Early Learning Goals.

How good is the Day Care?

Absolute Beginners Pre-School provides good quality care for the children. There is a wide range of activities to aid the children's development and a qualified primary school teacher attends on 3 mornings a week to support the children and to assist with curriculum planning.

The group is very well established in the area and there is a consistent staff group who have good knowledge of each child's individual needs. At least 50% of staff are qualified, and there is an ongoing commitment to staff training. Staff are competent within their roles and are aware of their responsibilities. They effectively use observations of what children can do to plan for their next stages of learning.

The group provides a welcoming environment for children and the organisation of

the session gives children opportunities to partake in small group work, specific to their needs. The environment is clean, welcoming and well organised. All health and safety requirements are in place, and three members of staff are undertaking refresher first aid training in March 2005.

The children are able to use space freely and enjoy the equipment and resources in both of the group rooms. The pre-school is well resourced to enable the children to access a range of activities that promote their learning. Snacks are provided, and there are regular opportunities for the children to take part in cooking activities. Play resources positively promote anti-discriminatory practices, and festivals and celebrations are incorporated into the planning of activities.

Parents receive written information about the setting, and most of the documentation is in place. However, written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is not currently in place. Staff are available to talk to parents on a daily basis and provide regular updates about their children's progress. Parental involvement is positively encouraged and parents are very happy with the quality of care provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the group was asked to review policies and procedures relating to Sick Children, Complaints, Child Protection/Allegations Against Staff and procedures to be followed in the event of a child being lost or a parent failing to collect a child. These procedures have been updated and are now in place. The group was also asked to implement a Visitors Book and to conduct a risk assessment identifying actions to be taken to minimise identified risks. Both of these actions have been addressed.

What is being done well?

- Children take part in a wide range of interesting and well planned activities. They explore their environment energetically and play enthusiastically with a good selection of resources and equipment.
- The staff have developed very good relationships with children and are aware of their individual needs. They interact in a caring, supportive manner, enabling children to feel happy, settled and confident in their care.
- Staff adopt an active role in promoting learning, creativity and development. There is a clear daily plan in place that allows the children access to free play and planned activities.
- Children are given plenty of time to practice and develop their skills and they are not rushed from one activity to another.
- Staff are experienced in caring for children with special needs and have effective procedures in place to support their learning. Good liaison with parents and outside agencies enable children's individual needs to be met well.

- Staff have a consistent and fair approach to behaviour management issues. Clear guidance and praise ensures children are familiar with behavioural expectations. Children are confident with the well established routines.
- Staff provide parents with good information about the setting and their children's progress. Opportunities are available to parents to be actively involved in the group and this is encouraged. Questionnaires and verbal parental feedback indicate that the parents are very happy with the standard of care provided.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation regarding written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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

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 | Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. |

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.