



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY259044

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	14/03/2005
Inspector Name	Kathy Ann Leatherbarrow

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	The Acorn Playgroup
Setting Address	Ormskirk C of E Primary School Greetby Hill Ormskirk Lancashire L39 2DP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Susan Routledge
------	---------------------

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

The Acorn Playgroup was registered to Mrs S Routledge in October 2003. It is located within Ormskirk C of E Primary School, on the outskirts of Ormskirk town centre. Children are cared for in a base room and one classroom, which have toilet and kitchen facilities. The playgroup also has access to the hall and a safe and secure outdoor play area.

The playgroup is open term time only offering sessions from 09:30 to 11:30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 12:45 to 15:15 each weekday. There are currently 19 children on roll; of these 13 are funded three and four year olds.

There are four permanent staff members who work with the children, whom are appropriately qualified and experienced. The playgroup supports children with special educational needs and for whom English is an additional language.

How good is the Day Care?

The Acorn Playgroup provides good care for children.

Staff give priority to ensure children are safe, both inside and outside the nursery. They carry out procedures outlined in safety policies and maintain registers. Staff follow policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Most documentation is in place to reflect the good practice of this playgroup.

There are procedures in place to ensure that staff have a consistent approach to their work, such as induction training, regular team meetings and staff appraisals. Staff recognise children as individuals and meet their differing needs well. The quality of the staff interactions enhance all aspects of the children's development. Children enjoy a substantial snack and have a good choice of fresh fruit. However children did not use plates to put their food on.

Staff organise a stimulating programme of activities and encourage the children to make their own choices about play and learning. The room's are organised and set up, in an interesting and thoughtful way, such as accessible resources to support the children's learning. Staff observe and record the children's progress. The children are interested and fully involved in activities and are keen to communicate with adults and each other. Staff consistently apply documented strategies to encourage the children's good behaviour.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. They are kept informed of the playgroups activities on a daily basis. Information to promote the care and learning is also regularly exchanged.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan and provide a broad range of activities in each session, which promotes children's development in all areas. They observe and record children's progress, which informs future planning. Staff show interest in what the children do, ask questions to make them think and praise them for their achievements, which results in building the children's self esteem and confidence.
- A balanced range of good quality resources are available which includes toys, books and images that reflect positive images of culture and ethnicity. The organisation of the play materials enables children to make choices and select equipment independently with confidence.
- Toys, books and resources including craft materials and equipment are of good quality and are stored at the children's level to create an accessible and stimulating environment.
- Staff value and encourage the children's good behaviour and are consistent in their use of appropriate strategies to manage unwanted behaviour. Children are enthusiastically praised for their achievements resulting in the children exhibiting consistently good behaviour and consideration for one another.

What needs to be improved?

- the use of equipment at snack time
- the child protection statement.

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 from 1st April 2004.

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
8	Review snack time to ensure children have appropriate equipment to eat from.
13	Review the child protection statement to ensure that it is consistent with the government booklet "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused – Summary" and includes a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

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.