



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109485

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 06/05/2004
Inspector Name Alison Weaver

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Polegate Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address 54 Windsor Way
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6QF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Polegate Pre-School Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Polegate Pre-School Playgroup
Address Polegate Pre-School Playgroup
Polegate Community Centre, 54 Windsor Way
Polegate
East Sussex
BN26 6HE

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

Polegate Pre-School Playgroup opened in 1964. It operates from three rooms in a local community centre in Polegate, although not all the rooms are available at every session. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently 64 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 22 funded 3 year olds and 15 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09.15 until 11.45. There is a team of eleven staff who work with the children. Over half the staff have, or are working towards, a recognised Early Years qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Polegate Pre-school Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children.

The group has developed appropriate recruitment procedures to ensure that staff employed in the setting are suitable. The staff team work well together and several are attending childcare courses to improve their knowledge.

The main room is well organised and used effectively to provide different play areas for the children. Despite the shared use of the building the group is working at providing a more visually stimulating environment. Staff give high priority to ensuring the health and safety of the children in the premises with one weakness.

A wide selection of appropriate resources is provided for the children. They are able to make their own choices and they enjoy the activities. Staff spend their time with the children and take an interest in them. Positive, caring relationships are developed between staff and children. The staff deal with any inappropriate behaviour sensitively. The group will benefit from extending its knowledge of how to include children and parents with English as an additional language.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. They are provided with a variety of helpful written information about the group. Parents are welcome to help on the committee or in the group. They are encouraged to discuss any concerns with staff. All the required documentation is in place with one necessary detail lacking.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group was asked to ensure that written policies reflect their practices. This recommendation has been fully met as the policies have been updated and made specific to the group. They give clear details of the key practices of the group.

What is being done well?

- Children enjoy their time in the group and are well occupied. They are confident and relate well to each other and to adults. They play happily and are well behaved.
- Staff are very caring and friendly, creating a relaxed and informal environment. The children settle quickly into the group with appropriate adult support and attention. This is particularly evident in the care of children with special needs. These children are valued and their individual needs are respected. The group works closely with the parents and with outside agencies to meet the needs.
- There is a wide range of resources and equipment available on a daily basis. Regular safety checks are carried out on the equipment to ensure it is safe for the children. The use of the main room is very effective with different play areas created.
- The handbooks produced for both staff and parents are very detailed, and informative. They give a good outline of the group and the activities.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, with regard to the administration of medication
- safety relating to the electrical sockets
- staff's knowledge of ways to effectively include children and parents who have English as an additional language.

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
6	Ensure that the electrical sockets do not present a hazard to children.
7	Ensure that parents countersign any recordings of administration of medication.
9	Develop staff's knowledge of how to promote equality of opportunity for parents and children with English as an additional language.

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.