



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 400342

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/06/2004
Inspector Name Ingrid Szczerban

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Josephs Playgroup
Setting Address 281 Skipton Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 3HD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Josephs Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Josephs Playgroup
Address 281 Skipton Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 3HD

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

St. Joseph's Playgroup has been registered since 1986 and is run by a committee. The group serves the local parish and is located close to the centre of Harrogate. They use the church hall and entrance lobby for children's activities, and can use the playground and playing field, belonging to the adjacent school. The session times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 09:00-12:00, Tuesday and Thursday, 09:00-13:00. They are currently caring for 24 children, of which fifteen 3-year olds and six 4-year olds, are in receipt of nursery education funding. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are presently no children with special needs or English as an additional language, attending. Two full-time and two part-time staff work with the children, half are appropriately qualified and the rest are working towards gaining a recognised qualification. The playgroup receives support from the Local Authority and uses the 'Learning Through Play', method of teaching.

How good is the Day Care?

St. Joseph's Playgroup provides good care for children.

The documentation is well-ordered, mainly comprehensive, accurate and up to date. Staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. On-going training for staff is encouraged. The space available is used well and the premises is clean and generally well-maintained. There are ample toys available, appropriate to the ages of the children, and set-out activities, are easily accessed by them. There is sufficient suitable furniture and the resources reflect all aspects of equality of opportunity.

The staff have generally good awareness of safety issues, inside and outdoors. Good hygiene routines are followed and healthy snacks are provided for children. The staff have good knowledge of child protection procedures.

The range of provision is excellent and the good balance of activities is reflected in the planning. Children enjoy a variety of stimulating activities which, promote development in all areas of learning. The level of interaction between staff and children, is high. Effective and appropriate strategies are used to manage children's behaviour.

Relationships with parents are positive, staff have daily discussions with them about their child. There are also other effective means in place, to share information with parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection there were actions relating to the vetting of staff, the records of visitors and the maintenance of the toilet area.

The current staff and new committee members have been suitably vetted to ensure the welfare of the children.

Improvements have been made to the registration system, which now includes a record of all visitors, which helps to further safeguard children.

There have been improvements to the toilet area. A lino floor has been provided, which is easy to clean and protects children from the spread of any infections.

What is being done well?

- Children enjoy a variety of stimulating activities. Regular PE sessions help to develop children's physical skills and gain confidence in undressing and dressing themselves.
- The level of interaction between staff and children is high. They constantly encourage conversation and have good knowledge of individual children. Past events/activities are discussed, with the aid of photographs. This develops good social skills and helps to improve children's ability to remember and re-call previous experiences.
- Effective and appropriate strategies are used to manage children's behaviour. Staff set a good role model for children by using polite and respectful language and showing genuine interest in them. Children are encouraged to become independent and engaged in tasks such as helping themselves to snack and pouring out their own water. This promotes their confidence, self esteem and teaches children how to become responsible.
- There are effective means in place to share information with parents. Parents are given an information leaflet, home diaries, a notice board and they are invited to an annual open day as well as ongoing events during the year. These provide opportunities to get to know parents and improve communication with them.

What needs to be improved?

- the detail in documentation
- safety with regard to electric sockets.

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
6	Make sure that all electric sockets are inaccessible to the children.
12	Ensure that the complaints procedures provides details of the regulator.

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.