



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 226231

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	16/09/2004
Inspector Name	Sheila Hartley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Noahs Ark Playgroup
Setting Address	Pentecostal Church James Street Coalville Leicestershire LE67 3BX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Sharon Ellison
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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

Noah's Ark Pre-School Playgroup was established in 1990. It operates from the Pentecostal Church building in James Street, Coalville and it serves Coalville and the surrounding area. The setting, encompasses a pre-school and a playgroup. The playgroup serves the younger children and the four-year-olds are provided for in the pre-school.

There are currently 52 children on roll, including 40 funded three-and four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting has supported children with special educational needs.

The groups run for four days a week during term-times. Pre-school sessions are from 9:15 until 11:45 and playschool sessions from 12:45 until 14:45.

In total seven members of staff work with the children throughout the week. Six members of staff hold or are working towards recognised child care qualifications to level two or three. The seventh member of staff has completed relevant training for the care of under eight-year-olds.

The group is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and receives support from the Leicestershire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership through visits from a mentor teacher. It is also a lead setting for the local education authority which means that it is an establishment that may be visited by other providers to observe practice.

How good is the Day Care?

Noah's Ark Playgroup provides good quality care for children. Available space is used appropriately so that children have access to an area for quiet activities such as reading. The main room is well resourced which allows children the choice of many floor and table activities. Most policies and procedures are in place, although there is no operational plan, the procedure for lost or uncollected children is not informative to staff and there is no reference to bullying in the behaviour management policy.

Arrangements for health and safety at the group are good. Priority is given to maintaining children's safety, risk assessments are carried out and procedures are in place for emergency evacuation. Trained first aiders are available and a policy

regarding ill children ensures that the children's well-being is promoted. Children are treated as individuals with equal concern and staff ensure that activities are planned which allow for inclusion and integration. Child protection procedures are in place and are shared with parents.

The group is a good exemplar of experiential learning. Varied activities and play opportunities allow children to develop necessary and important skills with particular emphasis given to children's social and educational development. Staff interact well with children to ensure every opportunity for learning is developed. Sensible behaviour management strategies are used which children can understand.

The group works well in partnership with parents and carers who receive a good range of information about children and the provision. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning via a rota system and receive regular information regarding their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting was asked to develop an action plan which set out how qualification requirements would be met in relation to a suitable qualification for the named deputy. The named deputy has enrolled on to an Accredited Prior and Experiential Learning course, which will lead to a level three certificate in working with children. This will ensure all staff have relevant qualifications for the care of children in an early learning setting. They will be able to work together to exploit the full potential of all the opportunities offered to children and enhance their learning as a result.

What is being done well?

- Children have opportunities to explore a wide range of activities both educational and fun. They are happy and able to make choices in a secure environment. Staff interact well with the children supporting them in relating their play to learning and taking opportunities to develop their skills and capabilities.
- Resources are available to facilitate all areas of learning. They are factored into planning of activities and rotated to cover topics appropriately and to ensure children do not get bored. Some toys and materials are easily accessible to the children to allow them to make decisions and choose during sessions of free play.
- Attention is taken to gather as much information as possible about the children which enables staff to recognise differences and to treat children as individuals. There is an equal opportunities policy which identifies that diversity is valued and all children are treated with equal concern. A range of resources which provide positive images of a wider world help to broaden and enhance the children's learning.
- Good procedures ensure children are looked after according to parents wishes and parents are kept well informed verbally and in writing about the

provision and their child's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the operational plan to reflect how the group is organised, how staff are deployed and resources are used effectively and how staff training is linked to the provision of childcare activities
- the wording of the policies and procedures with regards to lost or uncollected children to ensure that staff have clear concise instructions of what to do should an event arise, and the inclusion of a bullying statement in the behaviour management policy.

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
2	Devise an operational plan which is available to parents.
11	Develop the behaviour management policy to include a statement regarding bullying.
14	Develop the statement of procedure to be followed if a parent fails to collect a child or a child is lost.

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.