



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113582

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 18/10/2004
Inspector Name Teresa Elkington

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Little Acorns Pre-School Alliance
Setting Address Kelsey Hall, Chalk Road
Ifold, Loxwood
Billingshurst
West Sussex
RH14 OTU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Little Acorns Pre-School Alliance 1042191

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Little Acorns Pre-School Alliance
Address Kelsey Hall, Chalk Road
Ifold, Loxwood
Billingshurst
West Sussex
RH14 0UD

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

Little Acorns Pre-School opened approximately thirty years ago. It operates from the main hall and a smaller carpeted room in the local village hall, in Ifold, near Horsham, West Sussex. The pre-school serves the local area and the surrounding villages.

The setting is registered for 26 children and are in receipt of funding for three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.30am until 12.15pm everyday and a lunch club from 12.15 until 1.30pm three days a week, with an extended day being offered for one day a week.

There are six part time working with the children. Half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Three staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Pre-school provides good quality care for children. The facility is well organised and all staff work well together as a team, they are welcoming, friendly and have good relationships with the children. They offer a clean, well maintained provision, utilising all space to provide areas for free play, creative and physical activities along with rest facilities.

Staff demonstrate a sound understanding of health and hygiene issues, encouraging children to show independence in hand washing and use of the toilet. Good safety measures are in place throughout the facility, which is supported by regular risk assessments to identify potential hazards and minimise accidents. Snacks and drinks provided are well balanced taking into account the individual needs of children. Information exchanged to parents encourages them to supply healthy packed lunches.

The facility promotes inclusion for all children. The staff have an awareness of child protection issues, however the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a staff member is not available. Staff manage children's

behaviour well and children respond positively to the praise and encouragement given. Staff receive regular appraisals to support their development, however the induction process for new staff is not in place.

Staff have a good knowledge of each child's individual needs and interests. Activities are planned around a theme, where children are given varied opportunities for free play activities along with adult lead activities. Staff provide many opportunities for children to explore, develop independence and make choices for themselves.

There is an effective partnership with the parents, which is supported by regular exchange of information on children's progress, ensuring that their needs are well met. All policies and procedures are readily available for staff and parents and are kept in line with regulations.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not Applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staff team create good relationships with the children, they are attentive, observant and readily join in play activities which encourage children to learn and develop through all areas of their play.
- An interesting and stimulating programme of activities is provided, which ensures that children are well motivated, eager to take part and that all areas of learning is built upon.
- Space is well utilised throughout the facility to provide many opportunities for all activities to be carried out in a friendly, welcoming child centred environment.
- Staff show a clear awareness of health and safety within the facility, with necessary precautions in place to safe guard the children.
- Adults handling of behaviour is consistent and respects children's levels of understanding, ensuring that they learn right from wrong.
- Staff work closely with parents to ensure good quality care and learning for their children. Regular exchanges of information keeps parents informed about their children's individual development and the provision.

What needs to be improved?

- the induction processes for staff;
- the child protection procedures in the event of an allegation being made against a staff member.

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
13	Ensure that procedures are in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.
2	Ensure that an effective induction programme is available for new staff members.

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.