



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 402187

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/05/2003
Inspector Name Patricia Mary Champion

SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name Ashingdon Preschool
Setting Address The Cricket Pavilion
Ashingdon
Essex
SS4 3UZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Susan Amanda Mackie

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

Ashingdon Pre-School opened in 1999. It operates from rooms within a cricket pavilion on a recreational playing field, within walking distance of local schools and shops. The pre school serves the local and wider area. The pre school is registered for sessional care for 26 children aged from two to five years. There are currently 61 children aged from two years six months to five years on roll. This includes 50 funded three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports a small number of children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Nine members of staff work with the children. Six have early years qualifications. Two staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from an Infant Teacher.

How good is the Day Care?

Ashingdon Pre School provides good quality care for children. The management of the pre school is well organised; documentation is in good order and most records have been reviewed and updated. Sessions run smoothly and the staff are well aware of the routine and their responsibilities. Staff are keen to attend training in order to update their knowledge of childcare issues and trends; the supervisors are working towards a level four qualification. A lot of effort has been put into making the premises attractive to children. Staff actively promote good health and hygiene. High priority has been given to the children's safety both inside and outside the pre school. Good use is made of space; the rising five year olds have the opportunity to work in small groups while practising their early writing skills and number recognition. Children have the opportunity for indoor physical play when the outdoor play area is not available. A wide range of activities are provided with a good balance of adult led and child initiated play experiences. Children are able to demonstrate their creative skills and excellent opportunities are given to the children to learn about their environment through investigation and exploration. Resources are provided for the children to learn about the growth of tadpoles to frogs and caterpillars to butterflies. The children are happy, confident and enjoy their play. Staff interact well with the children and actively promote good behaviour with the use of praise and encouragement and by maintaining a calm atmosphere in the pre school. There is an open door policy for parents. They receive information through regular newsletters, visual displays and good verbal feedback is given when they arrive to collect their children. Several parents were spoken to at the end of the

session; they are all very happy and confident with the care their children receive in the setting.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the managers agreed to ensure that all persons aged over sixteen working on the premises have been vetted, ensure that any incidents are recorded and the parent is informed of the incident on the day and ensure that the child protection statement includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. All existing staff have been vetted, new staff are now being cleared through the CRB, an incident record has been implemented and the child protection statement has been updated to meet the standards.

What is being done well?

Good use is made of staff and space in order that the children are supported and well cared for. The staff work well as a team (Standard 2). The staff are calm, sensitive and caring and are interested in what the children do or say. Activities are planned to give the children a wide range of experiences (Standard 3). The premises are safe, welcoming and well maintained and have been attractively decorated with examples of the children's artwork (Standard 4) There is an excellent range of good quality play equipment and staff have put a lot of thought into providing toys, books and other resources that promote children's learning in all areas (Standard 5) A very comprehensive risk assessment has been undertaken with each member of staff involved in assessing potential hazards relating to the premises, equipment and the activities that are organised (Standard 6) There is an effective partnership with parents, information is shared and confidentiality is maintained. Parents provide fresh fruit for the children to eat at refreshment time (Standard 12).

What needs to be improved?

the procedure for keeping an easily available record of fire drills the complaints policy, to include Ofsted's address and telephone number the consent agreements, to be revised so that parents give permission for seeking any necessary medical advice or treatment in the future

Outcome of the inspection

Good

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
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The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
6	ensure that a record of when fire drills are undertaken is kept in a fire log book
7	review and update written, parental permission for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
12	ensure that the complaints policy includes Ofsted's address and telephone number

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.