



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY296220

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/03/2005
Inspector Name Chris Gregson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Little Acorns
Setting Address New Life Christian Fellowship Church
Purford Green
Harlow
Essex
CM18 6HP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Linda White

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 was established in 1999 and moved to its current premises in 2004. It operates from one room in a church hall in Purford Green, Harlow. A maximum of 24 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. The pre-school is open each weekday from 09.15 to 11.45 and 12.45 to 15.15 during term times.

There are currently 36 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 24 children receive funding for pre-school education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The pre-school currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The pre-school employs five staff. All of the staff, including the playleader hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards a further qualification..

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Pre-school provides good care for all children.

Children are protected by effective policies and procedures that are available for staff and parents to see the very high expectations of the owner. A very good induction procedure is in place and staff are all vetted and trained. There is good use of staff, space and resources with facilities to rest, sit comfortably to play and join in activities. Displays of the children's work enhance the church hall. Staff work very together to ensure the organisation of the session is good, however, the written operational plan is limited.

Safety is a priority and the pre-school is secure and children are safe as good health and safety and child protection policies are in place. Staff constantly encourage children to use good hygiene practice. They know how to deal with an accident or comfort a child who becomes ill during the day. Effective paperwork is in place about a child's diet or allergies and staff skilfully uses this information to care for the individual child.

Staff provide a very good range of fun, interesting and stimulating activities and resources that children can choose from. All children can play with all the resources. Very good systems are in place to ensure the needs of the individual child are met

and given additional or specific support when needed. Children's behaviour is good as skilful staff have high but realistic expectations.

Partnerships between staff and parents are very good. Staff create a warm and friendly welcome for children and their parents. This enables children to settle and feel secure. They are cared for according to their parents' wishes and staff keep parents informed of their child's welfare, progress and the pre-school plans through written information in the newsletters and notice board. Children take home books to make an excellent link between the pre-school and home.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide excellent care for all children, with lots of reassuring cuddles when very young children are feeling unsure. They understand developmental stages and encourage independence and develop children's self esteem and confidence.
- Staff provide interesting and exciting resources to support the activities and involve children in purposeful play and give them first-hand experiences that encourage exploration, observation and discussion.
- Staff work well as a very supportive and efficient team. They have very positive attitudes and enjoy working with each other and the children, providing a fun learning environment for all children.
- Behaviour management is excellent and staff are consistent, whilst helping children understand what is expected in the pre-school. Staff are polite and good role models for the children. They demonstrate respect to each other and the children.
- Staff are very friendly and open and have very good relationships with parents so that children feel secure within the pre-school environment. Parents' questionnaires show that parents are very confident that staff listen to them and that their views are respected and acknowledged.

What needs to be improved?

- written operational plan to reflect very good practice in the pre-school.

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	Further develop written operational plan.

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.