



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY274993

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	24/11/2004
Inspector Name	Carys Millican

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Rascals Preschool Nursery
Setting Address	Community Centre Caldbeck Road Red Lonning Whitehaven CA28 6TN

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Rascals Pre-School Nursery 1044699
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Rascals Pre-School Nursery
Address	Community Centre Calbeck Road Red Lonning Whitehaven CA28 6XQ

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

Rascals Pre-School Nursery is run by a management committee. It opened in 1994 and operates from a community centre on the Hillcrest/Red Lonning housing estate in Whitehaven. A maximum of 26 children may attend at any one time. The pre-school is open each weekday from 09.15 to 11.45 and 12.30 - 15.00 term time only. The children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 62 children aged from 2 to 5 years on roll. Of these 30 children receive funding for nursery education. Children attend from a wide catchment area. The nursery currently supports a child with special educational needs. There are no children attending who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs six staff. All the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. The group is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and accreditation scheme.

How good is the Day Care?

Rascals Pre-School Nursery provides good quality care for children. Staff are experienced and qualified and have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. There is good organisation of the setting, which enables the staff to work closely with the children and to offer care and support. The playroom is warm, welcoming and bright. It is organised to provide an extensive range of interesting play areas. The children are able to move easily between activities and choose from the good quality play equipment. Documentation is generally well organised and children's needs are clearly recorded.

Attention to safety is generally good. Hygiene practices are promoted well within the setting and staff ensure the premises and equipment are kept clean. The snacks provided are healthy and nutritious and take into account children's dietary needs. Sensitive and appropriate interactions between staff and children promote children's self esteem. The staff have a good understanding with regard to their responsibilities in child protection matters and meeting children's special needs.

Children's care learning and play are fully supported. The children are well occupied with imaginative play opportunities, which are varied to ensure children remain interested and stimulated. Planning is in place with opportunities for free play and adult initiated activities related to age and individual abilities. Children's progress is

regularly monitored to inform future planning for individual needs. Good behaviour is promoted through praise and encouragement and staff act as good role models in promoting good social skills and manners.

The relationship with parents is good, with positive comments and feedback received from parents. Staff communicate closely with parents to foster good relationships and to build up a greater understanding of children's needs. Effective systems are in place for keeping parents informed about the setting and children's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- The premises are clean and well maintained. The children's work is creatively displayed to create a warm and welcoming environment. The room is well set out to provide stimulating play areas, which are often changed to maintain children's interest and encourage learning opportunities. There is a good range of safe, clean and age appropriate play equipment to support planned activities.
- Children benefit from the age appropriate activities, which are interesting, stimulating and varied. They are planned well according to early years learning outcomes. Children are given the opportunity to experience sensory activities. For example the children sat with an adult and played with a mixture of lux and cornflower and mixed in powder paint with their fingers. Adults are friendly and supportive, during the sticky kids tape they joined in the singing and dancing with the children.
- Healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks are regularly provided. The nutritional needs of the children are well understood and provided for. A weekly menu is planned for and parents consulted. Children's particular needs such as allergies and medical conditions are clearly identified and understood by all staff.
- Children behave in a co-operative, calm way and staff provide good role models, being polite to one another and the children. Good behaviour is encouraged through positive strategies, helping children to learn good ways of relating to one another and promote self esteem.
- Parents are made welcome and receive a good amount of information about the nursery and their children. There are good systems in place to ensure that staff understand the children's needs and parents' wishes. Parents show a good level of satisfaction with the setting. As a result children's needs are well met.

What needs to be improved?

- the maintenance of the outdoor play area re: missing drain pipe, broken fascia and crumbling wall cladding
- the procedures for maintaining children's privacy when toileting
- the maintaining of confidentiality when recording incidents.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
4	Complete an action plan showing how children's privacy is maintained when toileting.
6	Maintain the outdoor play area.
14	Maintain confidentiality when recording incidents.

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.