



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 206823

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/01/2005
Inspector Name Jean Otter

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Nether Heage Playgroup
Setting Address The Village Hall
School Lane
Heage
DE56 2AL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Nether Heage Playgroup 1048670

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Nether Heage Playgroup
Address The Village Hall, School Lane
Heage
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 2AL

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

Nether Heage Playgroup is committee run. It is situated in the village of Heage and operates from the Village Hall. A maximum of 25 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open for three morning sessions a week from 09:00 to 11:30 during school term time only. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 34 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. The playgroup have children who receive funding for nursery education.

The playgroup employs five staff. Three of the staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

Nether Heage Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children. The premises and resources are organised effectively to provide an excellent range of indoor and outdoor activities. Staff ensure a warm and welcoming environment where children can explore through play.

Most health and safety aspects are addressed, however an operational procedure for outings is not in place and written parental permission is not sought in case emergency medical advice or treatment is needed.

The direct work with the children is good and the planned activities provide a good level of stimulation for the children. Good attention is given to ensuring children settle happily into the group and to developing their self-confidence. Staff are sensitive to the individual needs of the children and encourage their language, mathematical thinking and imaginative play. There is also a wide range of opportunities for creative play, particularly good is their use of collage and natural materials. A satisfactory range of activities and resources encourage an understanding of the wider world. The methods for managing children's behaviour are appropriate, consistent and take into account children's age and stage of development.

Staff are aware of the importance of working in partnership with parents and are available at each session to share information informally. However, information relating to procedures, children's activities and their progress is insufficient and

shared only irregularly.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection the playgroup has initiated regular fire drills to ensure children and staff are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures and a system is now in place whereby any significant incidents are recorded.

What is being done well?

- Staff organise and supervise the available space well, allowing children to play freely and choose their own activities. A welcoming, safe and child-focused environment is provided.
- The playgroup provides a good range of stimulating toys and equipment. Children are well occupied, challenged and interested in their play.
- Staff work well together to ensure consistency in approach to managing children's behaviour.

What needs to be improved?

- the operational procedures relating to outings
- written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- the complaints procedure; to include the address and telephone number of Ofsted and to ensure that parents are properly informed
- the information given to parents relating to policies, procedures, children's activities and progress.

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

Satisfactory

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
6	Ensure that there are operational procedures for the safe conduct of any outings.
7	Ensure written parental permission is sought for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.
12	Ensure the address and telephone number of the regulator is included on the complaints procedure and that parents are appropriately informed.
12	Improve the information shared with parents relating to policies, procedures, children's activities and progress.

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.