



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 253207

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/06/2004
Inspector Name Anne Cooper

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Lowater Street Playgroup
Setting Address Lowater Street
Carlton
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG4 1JJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Lowater Street Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Lowater Street Playgroup
Address Lowater Street
Carlton
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG4 1JJ

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

Lowater Street Play and Pre-school opened in 1987. It operates from the community church hall in Carlton, and serves the surrounding area.

There are 50 children from 2 to 5 years on roll. This includes funded 3 and 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs.

The group opens 5 mornings and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, during the school term. Sessions are from 09:15 till 11.45 and 12:45 till 15:15. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3, with one member of staff working towards this. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and the Inclusion Support Service .

How good is the Day Care?

Lowater Street Play and Pre-School provides good care for children. The premises are light, bright and enables children to feel settled and stimulated. Staff organise the space well and divide the room by screening areas so that different activities can be provided, such as physical play. The children's work is displayed around the room.

The staff are well deployed and the sessions are planned with every staff member having different responsibilities. Staff operate a key worker system, which is effective and enables staff to develop good relationships with the children and parents. Consistency of managing behaviour is done by the staff working together and good behaviour is valued and encouraged. The staff know the children well and provide them with a good level of care. There is evidence of equality of opportunity being promoted within the setting.

The playgroup work to the Early Learning Goals and the planning is of a high standard. The activities are well planned to extend children's capabilities in all areas of their development. Children with special needs are well integrated into the setting. There are good resources to which the staff keep adding. The children are given a variety of healthy snacks and a choice of drinks at snack time.

The staff promote health and hygiene and have all attended the good food hygiene course and first aid training. There is a range of policies and procedures in place

with copies displayed for parents. However, there is no outings policy. There are systems in place to maintain good levels of safety, and emergency evacuations are practised on a regular basis. There are risk assessments in place, but these are not fully developed. Good relationships are formed with parents and staff keep parents well informed by daily discussions. The documentation is well ordered.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to ensure the children's departure times are recorded in the register and to include a statement about bullying in the behaviour management policy. Both of these actions have been satisfactorily addressed and this has resulted in a safer environment for the children.

What is being done well?

- Staff set good examples and are positive role models for children. There are systems in place to encourage responsibility and positive behaviour e.g. children obtain stickers and certificates if they have done something well.
- There is a good range of well maintained toys and play materials, the storage system enables the children to be fully involved at tidying up time. Equipment promoting equal opportunities is also good.
- A variety of interesting and imaginative play activities are fully planned and provided to meet the individual needs of children. Staff have a good understanding of The Early Learning Goals and provide a wealth of opportunities to extend children's all round development. All of the planning is shared with parents.
- The staff form good partnerships with parents. They have comprehensive portfolios they give to parents detailing all aspects of the service provided by the playgroup, these are updated whenever necessary.

What needs to be improved?

- safety, by developing the systems for conducting risk assessment on the premises, identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks.
- procedures for the safe conduct of any outings provided.

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
6	Develop the system for conducting risk assessments on the premises, identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks.
6	Devise operational procedures for the safe conduct of any outings provided.

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.