



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 254195

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 01/02/2005
Inspector Name Heather Jeanette Knox

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name North Lopham Playgroup
Setting Address The Mess, C/o St. Andrews C of E VA Primary School
The Street, North Lopham
Diss
Norfolk
IP22 2LR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Harriet Potter

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

North Lopham Playgroup have been operating for many years and transferred to their current premises in 2002. It is a voluntary, committee-run group. It operates from 'The Mess' a village hall style building, on the site of St. Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, in the rural village of North Lopham. There is an enclosed outside play area and the group have immediate access to the school playing fields. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently fourteen children from two to five years on roll. This includes eight funded children. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are no children attending who have special needs or for whom English is an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 0900 until 1130hrs. Children are also offered an additional lunch club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday from 1130 until 1300hrs.

The setting employs four staff, two of whom work each session. Two of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives the support of a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

North Lopham Playgroup provides satisfactory care for the children who attend.

The staff have good relationships with children, and provide them with a range of activities and resources, to help develop their learning. Staff make effective use of the premises to provide an interesting setting for the children. They are aware of maintaining safety standards, to reduce risks to children, although they need to address how to safely store the large chairs. Staff are active in ensuring that good hygiene practice is implemented. They help the children to develop regular routines, such as hand-washing before eating, and after using the toilet. Children have access to drinking water and are offered different, interesting snacks at break-time.

Staff treat children as individuals, and provide opportunities for them to learn about other cultures and traditions, although they lack resources to support this learning. Policies are in place to effectively support children with special needs. Staff

interactive positively with the children and are helping them learn how to share, and take turns, when using the equipment and playing games.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers who have daily exchanges with the staff. New parents receive a prospectus and on-going information is given via the notice board and newsletters. Staff also invite parents to open mornings when they can discuss any childcare issues with the staff. Documentation is in place to support the group, although changes are needed to the complaints policy and the registration system. The committee also need to ensure that any changes to staff, or committee, are forwarded to Ofsted.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group was asked to extend and review several areas of their documentation. They were also required to provide an action plan to show how they would meet current standards regarding qualifications for child-care and first-aid. Improvements were also requested regarding health and safety issues of the premises and equipment. There have been substantial changes to the group since this inspection and all the above issues have been resolved. This had had a positive effect on the group with an improvement in the level of care offered.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide the children with a warm, and welcoming, environment in which they can feel secure and settled.
- Staff work well as a team and plan a wide range of activities for the children. Children are confident and enjoy sharing their views and opinions in both large, and small, groups.
- Children are provided with a range of healthy, and nutritious, snacks to promote healthy eating habits.
- Staff act as good role models and set fair boundaries for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- the documentation to ensure the register and the complaints policy meet standards
- the range of resources to promote positive images
- the procedures to ensure Ofsted is notified of new staff and committee
- the storage of the adult-size chairs.

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.)

Since 1 April 2004 Ofsted has not received any complaints about this provider.

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
1	ensure that effective procedures are in place to ensure Ofsted are informed of any changes to staff and committee
2	ensure the registration system accurately shows the children present
6	conduct regular risk assessments (with particular regard to the stacking of adult chairs)
9	ensure that children have an appropriate range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
14	ensure the complaints procedure contains the address and telephone number of the regulator.

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.