



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY104005

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/05/2003
Inspector Name Michael, David Charnley

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Acorns Club
Setting Address Helmshore Primary School
Gregory Fold
Helmshore
Rossendale
BB4 4JW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Christine Myers

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

Acorns 'Out of school care' Club has been registered since August 2002. The Club operates from Helmshore Primary School and offers before and after school facilities for children aged between 4 and 11 years. The school is situated in a rural setting and children have access to a large activity area based in the hall, a classroom set out mainly for snack times and a separate quiet area. There is also the provision of an enclosed outdoor play area.

The club operates Monday to Friday during term time only from 8:00 to 9:00 and again from 15.15 - 18.00. Children registered with the school only attend Acorns Club. The Club was originally registered for 32 children but due to popular demand this number has increased to 48.

The Club's supervisor is NNEB qualified and the staff team is made up of 5 permanent members in total including a named deputy who recently completed an NVQ level 3 course in 'Early Years Child Care and Education.' Whilst other members are unqualified they all have relevant experience and expertise in the child care field, 2 of whom are employed within the school.

The Club is registered under the name of the Management Committee.

How good is the Day Care?

Staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. Staff are open to attending training courses as a means of extending their knowledge and understanding of child care practices. This is well supported by the registered person. Together they work effectively as a team each assuming their role and responsibilities according to set guidelines. Staff maintain a friendly and approachable attitude towards children and parents which makes for a warm and welcoming environment. Children are happy and settled.

Documentation, in most areas, is maintained to satisfactory standards, however, there are certain policy documents lacking necessary detail and record keeping is not always maintained to its full accuracy.

Staff have a basic awareness of health and safety matters and conform to Club policy. Staff, whilst encouraging children to be independent, closely monitor their movements. Children respond positively to the routine and structure of the Club's

activities. Staff plan a good range of activities to suit children of all ages. Children particularly enjoy outdoor and creative activity. There is much emphasis on allowing for the freedom of choice and staff consider the individual needs and preferences of children when planning activity.

Children conform to set boundaries and behave well.

Staff foster good relationships with parents and effective systems are in place to keep them informed of the Club's activities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff have a good understanding of their role and responsibilities within the Club. Staff work well as a team and are supportive to one another. They draw on individual expertise and skills to plan activity. Staff organise available space effectively enabling children to access all areas safely.
- The friendly nature of the staff team is appreciated by children and their respective parents.
- Children choose from a good range of activity which supports development in all areas, for example, art and craft activity, various sporting activities and construction.
- A good range of resources are available for use, such as lego, action figures, books, computer etc and these are well organised. Children access resources freely and contribute to ideas for identifying new forms of play equipment.
- There are good systems in place to keep children safe on and off the premises. Regular headcounts are carried out. Staff group children appropriately in line with activity plans and monitor their movements during the course of each session.
- Staff are active in promoting good relationships with parents. Staff obtain a good source of information from parents so that appropriate care can be given to their respective children. Parents are kept well informed about the Club's activities via newsletters for example and invited to give feedback and contribute to new ideas.
- Staff are sensitive to the care needs and preferences of individual children. Dietary needs, for example, are catered for and the likes and dislikes of individual children are taken into account when planning activity.

What needs to be improved?

- further planning to advance a programme of activities appropriate to the ages

and interests of the children.

- opportunities for children to learn and appreciate people from different cultures and backgrounds.
- staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures via training.
- policies and procedures which meet standard requirements.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
1	ensure OFSTED are notified of staff changes.	22/05/2003

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
3	plan further in advance a programme of activities appropriate to the ages and interests of the children.
9	opportunities for children to learn and appreciate people from different cultures and backgrounds.
13	staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures via training.
14	policies and procedures to meet standard requirements.

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.