



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 508030

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 03/02/2005
Inspector Name Susan Elaine Heap

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Fir Bank Playgroup
Setting Address Fir Bank Primary School
Grasmere Road
Royton
Oldham
OL2 6SJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Fir Bank School Playgroup 1049489

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Fir Bank School Playgroup
Address Fir Bank County School
Grasmere Road, Royton
Oldham
Lancashire
OL2 6SJ

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

Fir Bank Playgroup opened in 1995 and operates from a classroom which is shared with the After School Club in Fir Bank Primary School. It is situated on a residential estate in Royton, Oldham. A maximum of 24 children may attend the playgroup at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09.00 to 15:15, term time only. The playgroup offers wrap around care providing a service over lunch time when children can bring a packed lunch. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 25 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 20 children receive funding from the Nursery Education Grant. The playgroup supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The playgroup employs three members of staff. Two of whom hold appropriate early years qualifications. The playgroup also has support from two regular volunteers who either hold or are working towards an early years qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

Fir Bank Playgroup provides good quality care for children. Most staff have Early Years qualifications and there are systems in place for them to undertake further training for their own personal and professional development. Displays of children's work and pre school posters create a child centred and welcoming environment for children and their parents. The operational plan and policies and procedures ensure staff, volunteers and parents are familiar with the aims of the group and the procedures that are followed.

It provides a safe clean environment for children to play. There are policies and procedures in place to promote health and safety. Staff have a good understanding of these and are able to put them into practice through the daily routines and activities with the children. An additional member of staff who has completed first aid training will improve children's safety further. Staff have a good understanding of the individual dietary and development needs of children. Healthy snacks are provided daily. The playgroup offers good support to children with additional needs and their parents.

The playgroup has an excellent range of toys and equipment for children from two to five years. Opportunities for children to enjoy outdoor play have been identified by

the staff as an area to develop. There are clear behaviour boundaries which are shared with parents and children. Children have a clear understanding of what is expected of them and respond well to the staff's praise and guidance. Interaction between staff and children is very good.

Good professional relationships are established with parents to ensure the individual needs of each child are met. Information about children's activities and achievements are shared with them both verbally and in writing. Parents value the care and support offered to their children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the playgroup was asked to obtain copies of the National Standards; develop an operational plan; record staff attendance; provide a written procedure for lost or uncollected children; seek advice regarding the provision of packed lunches; complete a risk assessment; provide a policy for sick children; provide a written procedure for lunch time arrangements and obtain parents written consent for emergency medical advice or treatment. These have all been completed and have improved children's health and safety.

What is being done well?

- A good range of activities are planned which meet children's development needs and built around the current topic. Staff are able to extend children's play and spend time talking and playing with the children developing their language, confidence and play experiences. Children are able to take part in both free play or structured activities and are happy and involved in their play.
- Play areas are set out attractively so that children can access the toys and equipment with ease. There is an excellent range of toys and equipment which are set out linked to the current theme and also include positive images.
- Staff pay particular attention to safety through the completion of daily risk assessments of the areas used by children. They work well as a team to ensure that children are supervised at all times and keep each other informed if they are going outside with a group of children or a child comes inside to play.
- There is an innovative system to warn children of tidy up time or changes which includes the use of a 'traffic light' and red, yellow and green tambourines. Staff praise children regularly and good manners are always encouraged.
- Information for parents is shared in a variety of ways through open evenings, news letters, a suggestion box and the parents' notice board. Staff are committed to working in partnership with parents. Parents value the care, support and activities staff offer their children and for being friendly, flexible and approachable.

What needs to be improved?

- the opportunities for more challenging outdoor play experiences
- the procedures for ensuring that adequate first aid cover is available.

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 have been 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
3	Develop opportunities for children to experience more challenging outdoor play experiences.
7	Ensure there is an additional member of staff who is trained in First Aid.

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.