



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 509653

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/04/2003
Inspector Name Hazel Taylor

SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name St Michael's Playgroup
Setting Address Church Hall
Louth
Lincs
LN11 9DU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Michael's Playgroup Committee

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

St. Michael's Playgroup opened in 1986. It operates from one main room within St. Michael's Church House which is situated on a quiet road near the centre of the market town of Louth. Toilet facilities are provided in the entrance to the main hall building which is immediately opposite across a covered yard. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. The committee run playgroup serves the immediate locality as well as surrounding villages. The playgroup is registered to care for 18 children aged two years to under five years. There are currently 54 children on roll. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Two children have special needs. Currently there are no children attending who speak English as an additional language. The playgroup opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.00am until 11.45am and 1.00pm until 3.45pm. Six staff work with the children on both a full and part time basis. Three have early years qualifications or are working towards them. The playgroup is PLA affiliated.

How good is the Day Care?

St Michael's Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children aged two to under five years. Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. The staff are experienced and work well together as a team. They have a consistent approach to their work which is supported by weekly staff meetings and regular professional training. Staff are aware of safety issues and are deployed effectively to supervise children at all times both inside and outside. An appropriate range of policies, procedures and written records are in place although they sometimes lack sufficient detail. Staff plan activities to cover all areas of children's development. The key worker system enables staff to establish consistent and good relationships with children and parents. Children are involved, interested and enjoy their play. Staff value children's contributions by being interested in what they do and what they say and responding positively to children's ideas. Staff fully involve children with special needs in activities and through effective record keeping ensure that individual needs are met. They are particularly skilful in managing children's behaviour and developing their confidence and independence. There is a good partnership with parents and carers. Parents appreciate the warm welcome and friendly interaction of the staff. They are provided with helpful information about the playgroup and discuss their child's progress on a regular basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

No actions or recommendations were made at the last inspection.

What is being done well?

staff provide learning opportunities for children through a range of planned and free play activities. They encourage children to be confident, independent and develop their self esteem and enable them to select toys and equipment themselves by providing low level storage areas. (Standard 3 & 5) staff positively acknowledge and respect differences treating children with individual and equal concern. Children attending who have special needs are fully included in activities and play opportunities with their peers, activities modified as needed. Staff are particularly skilful at managing children's behaviour (Standards 9, 10 & 11) staff work in partnership with parents. This has a positive impact on the care and well being of the children. (Standard 12)

What needs to be improved?

the equipment log to record details of equipment checks and maintenance on a regular basis.(Standards 5 & 14) fire drills to ensure the length of time taken to evacuate the premises is monitored and recorded.(Standards 6 & 14) procedures for recording accidents and reporting to parents to ensure all records of accidents involving children are countersigned by parent/carer.(Standards 7, 12 & 14) the equal opportunities statement to be consistent with current legislation and guidance - making reference to equality of opportunity and non-discriminatory practice regardless of gender.(Standards 9 & 14) the complaints procedure to ensure it includes contact details for the regulatory body - Ofsted.(Standards 12 & 14) the written child protection policy to ensure that procedures are stated clearly, based on Area Child Protection Committee procedures, and include the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.(Standards 13 & 14)

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?

The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
13	Ensure that the written child protection statement is based on the Area Child Protection Committee procedures and includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.	01/10/2003

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

Std	Recommendation
5	Demonstrate that furniture, toys, equipment are well maintained and kept in good repair.
6	Ensure that fire safety records are kept to the satisfaction of the Fire Safety Officer in a fire log book which is available for inspection.
7	Ensure all records of accidents involving children are countersigned by parent.
9	Ensure that the equal opportunities policy is consistent with current legislation and guidance regarding gender issues.
12	Ensure that the complaints procedure includes contact details for the regulatory body – Ofsted.
14	Review policies and procedures with reference to Ofsted standards

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.