



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 109853

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/06/2003
Inspector Name	Jacqueline, Ann Connell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	ROPLEY PLAYGROUP
Setting Address	ROPLEY PARISH HALL CHURCH STREET, ROPLEY ALRESFORD HAMPSHIRE SO24 0DT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of ROPLEY PLAYGROUP
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	ROPLEY PLAYGROUP
Address	ROPLEY PARISH HALL CHURCH STREET, ,ROPLEY ALRESFORD HAMPSHIRE SO24 0DT

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

Ropley Playgroup has been registered for over 26 years, and is run by a parent committee. It meets in a room in Ropley village hall and serves the local community and the surrounding villages.

The playgroup is registered to provide care for a maximum of 18 children, aged between two and five years, although it is the group's policy to only take children from two years six months. From January 2004 the playgroup will be moving into the main hall and will be registered for 26 children. The group offers morning sessions each day except Tuesday. Afternoon sessions are offered if there is a high demand for places. The group sometimes operates an optional lunch club between 11:45 and 12:45, when children are able to bring a packed lunch.

Five of the six staff are fully qualified. All hold a first aid certificate. There is a strong commitment to staff training.

The group takes three and four year olds who are receiving funding and has experience of children who have special needs. There are close links with the local primary school.

How good is the Day Care?

Ropley Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children.

The playgroup operates with a high ratio of qualified and experienced staff who relate well to the children. They are interested in the children's development and have a good understanding of the children's individual needs. They build good relationships with the children by playing and talking with them. The staff prepare stimulating activities which the children enjoy and which encourage them to learn new skills. At times these activities do not fully hold the attention of the older children. The children are encouraged to be kind and helpful to one another. The staff respect and speak gently to the children.

The staff place a high priority on ensuring children are safe and consistently carry out the procedures which are described in the comprehensive health and safety policies. They encourage the children to develop good standards of hygiene through discussion and example.

The playroom is warm and welcoming and has attractive and colourful displays on

the walls. Space within this room is limited but the main hall is used for physical play. The storage area is off the main hall and separate from the playroom which means that the minimum staffing ratios are not always maintained while equipment is being changed over.

There is a close working relationship with parents, especially when children have special needs. Parental involvement is strong and parents are keen to become involved in the organisation of the playgroup by becoming a member of the committee. All the required documentation is in place although it is not stored in a secure place. However, the staff are vigilant in ensuring that any information they are given about the children is kept confidential.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The last inspection was a transitional inspection.

What is being done well?

- The staff know and understand the children well and organise each session well which helps the children to feel secure. Staff observe the children and make plans which help them to move on to their next stage of development. The staff are sensitive and flexible to the children's changing emotions and will vary a planned activity if it is not meeting the needs of the children on a particular day.
- Staff provide a broad selection of well maintained play equipment. They carefully plan and thoroughly prepare activities to ensure the children have a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable experiences.
- The playgroup has a strong commitment to provide a safe and healthy environment for the children and procedures are in place to support this. These include daily safety checks, regular risk assessments and safety reviews every three months. The staff encourage the children to develop good standards of hygiene through, for example, encouraging them to wash their hands before eating their snack. The staff give parents an attractive leaflet outlining clear and helpful advice about providing healthy snacks for their children.
- The staff work closely with parents keeping them well informed of the group's policies and procedures and providing regular opportunities to discuss their children's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- staffing ratios when equipment is being changed over
- activities for the older children so that their interest is maintained at all time
- storage of records to ensure they are kept in a secure place.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
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<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
2	ensure the minimum ratios are maintained at all times.
3	ensure the activities provide sufficient challenge for the older children and that all children are encouraged to experience the activities provided.
14	ensure records containing information about the children are kept in a secure place.

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.