



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 151306

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/03/2004
Inspector Name Jane Plested

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Ickford Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address Ickford School
Ickford
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP18 9HY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Ickford Pre-School Playgroup

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Ickford Pre-School Playgroup
Address Barnacre House
49 Worminghall Road, Ickford
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP18 9JB

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

Ickford Pre-School has been open for over 30 years, and the After School Club has been open since 2002. Both operate from Ickford School, which is sited in the centre of the rural village of Ickford close to Thame. The premises comprise the school hall, three classrooms, the library, kitchen and toilets. The children have access to the school playing field and playground.

There are currently a total of 20 children that attend the pre-school and 28 children on the roll for the after school club. The setting currently is not supporting any children who speak English as an additional language and none have designated special needs.

Ickford Pre-school runs a single session for children, on Friday morning's from 09:00 to 11:45, term time only. This is in addition to a separate registration for four sessions held at the village hall on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 09:15 to 11:45. The after school club is open five days a week during school term time. The club is open from 15:15 until 18:00. The club also expects to run a holiday scheme during the summer break.

There are five staff who work with the children. The leader and deputy are working towards relevant early years qualifications at level three.

The pre-school is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA). The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Ickford After School Club provides satisfactory care for children. The club is well managed; it provides a caring and friendly environment where children can play and enjoy themselves and parents feel at ease. There are ample outdoor spaces for the children to play. The children have access to a sufficient range of toys and equipment.

Staff have a satisfactory understanding of safety issues. However, all risks are not always made safe and the evacuation drill is not relevant to this setting. All areas for promoting children's good health have been addressed. Staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures, and their role in this. However, there is

no detailed procedure in place for the management of an allegation of abuse made against a member of staff. The club and staff have an awareness of how to promote healthy diets.

Staff plan the daily activities to offer children variety. There are good opportunities for children to develop their imagination and creativity. There is a clear routine to each session that is known by the children and staff. Children are well occupied and behave well most of the time. Sometimes children lose interest in activities and this is not always addressed well by staff. They are comfortable with the staff and are happy to attend the setting. Staff know the children well and take account of individual needs.

There is a good partnership with parents. They are well informed about the setting and are very happy with the service provided. All required policies and procedures are in place and most are well detailed. Most required records are kept but do not always show the necessary detail. Records are stored in a confidential manner.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The committee and staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The setting has a detailed set of policies and procedures that reflect the National Standards for Registration and most give the staff appropriate guidance. There are good strategies and procedures in place to ensure staff feel supported in their work.
- Children enjoy attending the club and they are offered a wide range of activities. These include a variety of creative activities, drama, cooking, Spanish and both inside and outdoor games. The staff get on well with the children, they support the children's play and give them opportunities to develop their own interests, such as Warhammer board games that are enjoyed by older boys.
- Drama workshops are enjoyed; they provide children with opportunities to be involved in the production of plays based on tales, such as The Three Little Pigs. Short exercise programmes allow children to explore language through tongue twisters and to consider how hand signals are used in different cultures.
- The club gives high priority to good partnership with parents. Their views are valued and the staff ensure parents feel welcome in the setting. They are given detailed information about the group via the prospectus, notice board, regular newsletters and by the open communication encouraged by the staff. Parents are very happy with the care and activities provided. They particularly value the intimacy and continuity provided by the setting through the links with the pre-school and school.

What needs to be improved?

- monitoring of planned activities, so that they continue to be of interest to all children throughout the session
- fire safety, so that the setting's evacuation plan is displayed and drills are recorded
- risk assessments and safety, so that responsibilities and records for risk assessments are clearly in place, the radiators do not pose a danger to children and there are operating procedures for specialist activities
- policies and procedures, so that the equal opportunities policy is relevant and understood by staff and the child protection policy contains a statement on how an allegation of abuse made against a member of staff is managed
- records, so that staff record children's pre-existing injuries and the times when visitors are on the premises.

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
3	Ensure there are activities available to interest all children.
6	Ensure there is an evacuation procedure on display relating to the setting and make sure a record of drills is kept.
6	Implement and record risk assessments that include procedures to ensure that radiators do not pose a danger to children.
14	Ensure a record of children's pre-existing injuries and visitors to the setting is kept.
14	Revise the equal opportunities policy and make sure the child protection policy includes a clear statement on how an allegation of abuse made against a member of staff is managed.

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.