



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 137365

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 23/02/2005
Inspector Name Sandra Rosemary Pierce

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name The Ark Pre-School
Setting Address 2 Masons Hill
Bromley
Kent
BR2 9HA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mr R Hambleton

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

The Ark Pre-School is a committee run group managed by the Bromley Christian Centre. It has been open since 1981 and operates from a hall and adjoining room situated on the ground floor of the Christian Centre premises that are located at the southern end of Bromley town centre. The group has use of the kitchen and associated facilities although there is no enclosed area for outdoor play.

A maximum of twenty-four children may attend the pre-school at any one time. The group serves the local community and is open Monday to Friday during school term time from 09:30 to 12:00 and from 12:45 to 15:00 on Thursdays.

There are currently forty-five children from the age of two-and-a-half to five years on roll. The pre-school receives funding for nursery education. The group supports children who have special educational needs and children for whom English is an additional language.

The pre-school employs seven members of staff. Four of the staff, including the manager have appropriate early years qualifications. The group is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Ark Pre-School offers good quality care for children. The accommodation is well maintained and there is a wide range of activities that support all areas of children's development. Staff organise the provision thoughtfully, making good use of space, resources and routines to create a stimulating child orientated environment. The management committee and staff members work well as a team, following an agreed set of policies and procedures that form the basis of sound practice. The documentation in general is thorough and very well organised, although one set of procedures and recording lacks detail.

The committee and pre-school staff take all necessary steps to ensure children are safe and secure. High priority is given to children's health and well being within the group and arrangements are consistent to ensure children's safety. Staff are calm, relaxed and friendly in their management of the children and foster children's independence and social development.

Staff have a good understanding of children's interests and learning requirements, and provide a varied range of enjoyable activities and play resources. Staff interact warmly with children. They praise and endorse acceptable behaviour and promote an atmosphere of care and respect. They encourage children in their efforts and seek opportunities to extend children's learning. Children requiring additional support are assisted sensitively by staff members to ensure they can participate. Children are sociable, and cooperate well with each other and with adults.

The pre-school work in partnership with the parents. They are welcomed into the group. Sound advice and information about pre-school activities, policies and procedures is available for them to read. There are regular opportunities to share information about children's individual needs and development, and parents' wishes are respected.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the group agreed to maintain records of committee members, and ensure that there is a break between sessions, when children are not in the care of the provider. Actions for medication administration procedures, and registration and medication recording were set, and the group was required to organise a system for sharing development records with parents. The group also agreed to ensure their Child Protection procedures comply with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures.

These issues have all been addressed. Details of committee members are being maintained and pre-school staff ensure parents are aware of medicinal administration requirements and have access to their children's records. This enables a strong working partnership to enhance children's developmental progress. The group has a distinct lunch break on Thursdays and registration systems include times of arrival and departure. The group now has a comprehensive Child Protection policy and staff follow the procedures in line with the local ACPC, thus ensuring that children's health and well-being is paramount.

What is being done well?

- The operational plan works well. Good policies and procedures are in place, which the staff implement as a cohesive team.
- The premises are set out well with displays on walls including the children's own art work. This establishes a sense of ownership and encourages children's self esteem. Activities are appropriately organised to create an accessible play and learning environment.
- The curriculum programme is well balanced with child initiated and staff supported activities. Children are encouraged to become involved in the broad range of interesting activities on offer, use resources creatively and imaginatively and play co-operatively together. Staff members interact skilfully with the children at child level and adopt active roles in promoting creativity and learning.

- Staff are vigilant as a team for ensuring the children's environment is safe and secure. Thorough assessments of risks are undertaken and recorded and secure arrangements are in place for monitoring the safe arrival and departure of children.
- Staff aim to promote an atmosphere of care and respect. They take care to praise and endorse acceptable behaviour. Rules of courtesy are set as a basis of a secure framework to help children to build positive patterns of behaviour. Children help to clear, tidy up, wipe tables and sweep the floor and receive praise and encouragement for their efforts.
- There is an effective partnership between parents and group. Parents receive clear written information through the use of documentation, newsletters and informal discussions. Parents are also encouraged to participate actively in the delivery of the play and learning programme.

What needs to be improved?

- accident records with regard to recording children's full details
- the statement of lost child procedures with regard to informing the registering authority in the event of a missing child.

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
2	Review the statement of procedures to be followed if a child is lost, ensuring the instructions include notifying the registering authority.
7	Ensure accident records contains full details of the children's names.

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.