



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 309267

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/09/2003
Inspector Name Alison Minto

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Cherry Tree Pre-School
Setting Address Cherry Crescent Community Centre
Rawtenstall
Rossendale
Lancashire
BB4 6DS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Cherry Tree Playgroup Committee

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Cherry Tree Playgroup Committee
Address Cherry Crescent Community Centre
Cherry Crescent
Rossendale
Lancashire
BB4 6DS

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

Cherry Trees Playgroup has been running in the community centre for the past two years. It operates from the hall of a wooden building on an estate in Rawtenstall and serves the local community. There is an enclosed outside play area at the rear of the building.

There are currently 30 children on register between the ages of two and four years. This includes 15 funded three year olds.

The group opens Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm all year round apart from a week at Christmas, a week at Easter and two weeks during the summer holidays.

There are four members of staff, all of whom have early years qualifications / training. Two regular helpers are currently studying for an early years qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Cherry Trees Playgroup provides good care for children. The hall is warm, bright and welcoming for the children and their parents. All the staff are qualified / trained and work closely as a team, ensuring that the children enjoy their playgroup experiences, helping them to feel settled and secure.

The choice of activities provided ensures that the children are able to be involved in a wide range of interesting experiences to encourage their all-round development. A basic planning programme is usually displayed for the parents. The staff have a good relationship with the children and there is lots of interaction. This ensures that the children secure and involved in their daily activities. They are very aware of the safety issues in the hall and have clear boundaries for behaviour, which the children understand. They encourage good hygiene practices, have regular routines and meet the individual needs of the children.

The relationship with the parents is good and they are encouraged to be involved in the playgroup. There is an information booklet for parents, and well-documented policies and procedures are available to them. An informative notice board keeps them up-dated, and verbal and written information is exchanged on a regular basis. All relevant paperwork is in place.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the manager agreed to devise a procedure for recording medication, obtain details regarding reporting child protection issues and ensure that parents are aware of the policy documents. These issues have now been addressed and the quality of care for the children has now been enhanced.

What is being done well?

- All the staff are qualified / relevantly trained and are committed to attending further training courses to enhance their learning and improve their skills. There are also two volunteers who help in the playgroup and are studying to gain a child care qualification.
- There is a wide choice of activities for the children, and the set-up allows children to move freely and with confidence within the group. There is good staff support as many of the activities are adult-led with lots of interaction through talking, listening and encouraging the children to ask questions.
- A key worker system ensures that the parents are able to liaise with staff that are familiar with their child. Written observation notes are also taken by staff at particular activities and passed to the key worker who then records the information in the child's individual file, which is available to parents.
- Snack-time is on going in the middle of the morning and children can choose when they would like it. A table is set-aside with one staff member who supervises and sits with the children, encouraging good social skills and independence.
- The playgroup displays are bright and colourful, encouraging learning through recognition of colours, numbers, letters and shapes. The children are also taught recognition of their own name on their pegs and cards as they arrive.
- The policies and procedures are well documented and information booklets have been produced for every parent. Individual folders have been made to record the records, work, progress and development of each child and are available to the parents.

What needs to be improved?

- the continuing planned programme of activities to ensure that the individual needs of the children are met in all areas of development.

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	continue to implement planning procedures to cover all areas of development

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.