



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100232

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/11/2004
Inspector Name Toni Hanson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Lilliput Playgroup
Setting Address Lilliput Pre-School Playgroup
Village Community Hall, Vicarage Road
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 9SD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of The Committee of Lilliput Playgroup 1057493

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Committee of Lilliput Playgroup
Address Village Community Hall
Vicarage Road
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 9SD

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

Lilliput Playgroup opened in 1950 and operates from a community hall in a residential area of Dagenham. A maximum of 30 children may attend the group at any one time. The playgroup is open each weekday from 09:30 to 12:00 during term time and serves the local area. Children have access to a secure, enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 34 children aged from 2 years 6 months to under 5 years on roll, none of whom are receiving funding for nursery education this term. The playgroup currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs six staff. Four of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications to National Vocational Qualification Level 2 or 3. Two staff are working towards a qualification. The playgroup receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and is accredited by the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

How good is the Day Care?

The playgroup provides good care for children.

The playgroup's operational plan is clear and comprehensive. Staff are deployed effectively and work well together to ensure the smooth running of the session. There are frequent opportunities for staff to further develop their knowledge and skills through training. Systems to monitor student's understanding of equality issues are not fully effective.

Staff are vigilant about ensuring all areas of the premises are safe and suitable. The outside play area is not currently being used as the staff are working hard to repair damage caused by vandals. Appropriate hygiene procedures help protect children from illness and infection. Snack times are sociable occasions and the food provided healthy and balanced. Staff have a sound understanding of their responsibilities towards the children in their care and the action they must take if there is a child protection concern.

Children have access to a wide variety of good quality resources, many of which promote diversity. Activities are well presented and give children good opportunities

to progress in their learning. Staff are warm and caring, skilled at managing children's behaviour positively and supporting new, settling children. Children with additional needs are also supported well. Staff work closely with parents and outside agencies and attend relevant training to help them meet children's individual needs effectively.

The playgroup have strong links with parents and actively support parental involvement. Parents say they value the personal attention children receive, the friendly, helpful staff and the way children are made to feel confident. Children's records are well organised and maintained appropriately.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the playgroup agreed to conduct a risk assessment on the premises, devise a procedure for the safe conduct of outings, develop an operational plan and provide parents with information about the setting's admissions policy.

The documentation of risk assessments has improved. Assessments are carried out regularly and recorded. Any potential hazards are identified and the action taken documented. Written, daily checklists are used to ensure each area of the premises are checked and made safe before the children arrive.

An outings procedure has been devised and included in the playgroup's operational plan. Staff now have clear, appropriate, instructions to follow when organising an outing for children.

The playgroup's operational plan has been reviewed and updated. It explains the playgroup's aims, policies and procedures, how it runs and shows how resources are used to meet the needs of the children.

An admissions policy has been devised and included in the setting's operational plan and parent's prospectus. This explains how children's places are allocated.

What is being done well?

- A well balanced range of activities are planned and provided each day. Children have good opportunities to sit, concentrate and be active and enjoy freedom of movement each day.
- Staff manage children's behaviour in a consistent and positive way. Staff are good role models, speak respectfully to children and use praise frequently to re-enforce good behaviour.
- Staff have a positive attitude to the inclusion of children with additional needs. The playgroup's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) attends a wide range of appropriate training and works closely with parents, staff and outside agencies to ensure children's individual needs are well met.
- Partnership with parents is very good. The setting organises a gradual settling in process for new children, provides parents with regular newsletters and the well established key worker system ensures parents are kept up to

date with their children's achievements and progress.

What needs to be improved?

- systems to monitor students and volunteers knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity issues
- safety of fencing in the outdoor play area

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint relating to Standard 6: Safety, regarding the number of accidents and incidents that occurred to a child when attending the playgroup.

An Ofsted inspector made an unannounced visit to investigate. No evidence was found that the playgroup does not ensure proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents/incidents. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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
9	Improve systems to ensure students and volunteers understand and implement the equal opportunities policy.
6	Make sure that damaged fencing in the outdoor play area is made safe.

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.