



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY136994

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	28/05/2003
Inspector Name	Kathy Ann Leatherbarrow

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Acorns Childcare Ltd
Setting Address	34 Sheep Hill Lane Clayton-le-Woods Chorley Lancashire PR6 7JH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mr Peter Thomas Hindle
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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

Little Acorns Nursery has been registered since February 2002 as a private nursery offering care and education for 42 children aged from birth to five years. The nursery also provides places for funded three and four year old children.

The nursery is situated close to the M6 motorway in Clayton Le Woods, Chorley. The accommodation comprises three separate room's this allows, children to be grouped according to their age and designated area's for imaginative play, creative work and messy play. There is also a library on the first floor that is mainly used by the pre-school children. There are two separate outdoor play area's one for children over two years and one used only by children under two years.

The nursery offers a structured, but flexible approached. There are eight members of staff who work with the children, seven of whom hold a formal child care qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Childcare Ltd provides satisfactory care for children.

The staff work well together and are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They each take responsibility for areas of the care and curriculum and plan a range of activities which build on the children's natural curiosity. They manage behaviour well and develop the children's confidence and independence.

The quality of care for children aged under two years is good. The key worker system is effective this practice enables staff to establish consistent and positive relationships with babies and parents. However, domestic furniture is needed to enable staff to carry out their duties in a comfortable manner.

The organisation of the daily routine is good. However, attention is needed specifically to meal times, in relation to ensuring that individual needs are met. The attention to safety is good. Risk assessments are carried out, which ensure the children are cared for in a safe and secure environment.

Documentation is in place however, various policies and procedures require updating. The attention to partnership with parents is good. Staff ensure that daily routines for the babies are well documented and passed on to parents. Staff are also pro-active when assessing their own work with parents and use this to further

develop their service.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since registration the management have received conformation from the Environmental Health Department and the Fire Department that their standards have been met. These report's are available from the manager.

What is being done well?

- The key worker system is effective. Staff have clear roles and responsibilities for areas of learning and designated areas of care practice (Standard 2).
- The staff give good attention to meeting babies individual needs for eating, sleeping and exchanging information with parents. They plan activities well to give babies and toddlers interesting sensory experiences (Standard 3, 8 and 12).
- Children are interested in the toys available. The children are able to access the toys which are in easy reach of the children and have picture labels for easy recognition (Standard 5).
- The staff have good relationships with parents where information is given and received both verbally and in writing. This ensures that the children are looked after in accordance with parental wishes (Standard 12).

What needs to be improved?

- the system for obtaining written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and obtaining parental consent to administer medication (Standard 7 & 14);
- the behaviour management statement needs updating to include bullying (Standard 11 and 14);
- provision of domestic style furniture to assist children and staff continue with normal life experiences when feeding and to provide children with the opportunity to have a drink at the same time as they eat their meal rather than immediately afterwards (Standard 5 and 8);
- timing of management tasks within the organisational roles (Standard 2).

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
7	obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment (Standard 7)	28/06/2003

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	consider within the organisational roles, time for management tasks (Standard 2);
5	consider providing some domestic style furniture to assist children in developing mobility and continue normal life experiences (Standard 5);
14	review the system for obtaining parental consent to administer medication (Standard 14);
14	review the behaviour management statement to include bullying (Standard 11 and 14)
8	consider providing the children with the opportunity to have a drink with their meal rather than immediately afterwards (Standard 8);

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.