



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 123613

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	24/06/2004
Inspector Name	Christine Pettitt

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Noahs Ark Playschool
Setting Address	Crabtree Lane Harpenden Hertfordshire AL5 5RD

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Gwyn Record
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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

Noah's Ark Playschool operates from Crabtree Church community hall in Harpenden. Opening times are 9.15am to 12.00 every week day, during term-time only. This facility receives nursery education funding for 3 and 4 year old children. There are currently 10 children who receive this funding.

The playschool has recently moved to a new building at the same venue. There is a large hall and an adjacent cloakroom area containing 3 toilets and wash basins. The entrance includes an area for coats. There is an outside play area adjacent to the hall which is hard surfaced. The playschool have sole use of the premises whilst it is operating.

There are currently 10 staff working varying days during the week. There is an overall leader, a deputy and two other staff who supervise on different days. Three staff have an NVQ level 3 early years qualification, and 3 staff have the Diploma in Pre-School Practice. The staff are committed to ongoing training. The Herts Quality Standards award was obtained in March 2004.

### How good is the Day Care?

Noah's Ark playschool provides good care for children.

This is an attractive, child orientated, and well organised provision. The environment is welcoming, caring, and stimulating. There is a conscientious approach towards safety issues. The staff promote effective health and safety practice through activities and within the routine.

An ethos of learning through enjoyable play and planned activities is evident. A varied programme of activities related to a weekly theme are offered. The activity plans incorporate the early learning goals and stepping stones. Observations of the development of children take place. The staff are working towards extending these in the Autumn. There is a broad range of play equipment available which is easily accessible.

The staff team are committed to providing a stimulating setting. There is an informal induction programme which needs reviewing. The staff have attended recent training and are willing to attend ongoing training. There is a positive approach towards behaviour management and equal opportunities and each has a co-ordinator to

monitor any relevant issues. A key worker system is used. A pro active approach towards special needs is evident.

An excellent partnership with parents is encouraged through comprehensive written information for parents and ongoing communication. Information regarding the individual needs of each child is obtained from parents. The parent questionnaires comment positively on the "caring approachable staff." "good range of resources, experiences and learning opportunities." The required records are in place and are stored securely. There is a confidentiality policy. The documentation is organised well. Daily staff attendance records should be reviewed. The required policies and operational file are in place.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Following the previous inspection, an action was raised to undertake a fire inspection. This was carried out.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The staff team are very involved in the activities with the children. Opportunities are used to extend the children's knowledge in all aspects of the programme. This also takes place at individual levels with 1:1 adult interaction, adults asking questions to evaluate the children's understanding and extend their knowledge. The curriculum plans indicate much thought behind the themes and related activities. Learning a letter phonically each week through activities extends language skills. A broad selection of play resources are presented each session which relate to the learning areas and offer different types of play.
- The playschool has a positive and welcoming approach towards children with special needs. The SENCO has attended training. There is a policy which identifies clearly the procedures to follow. The staff have been pro active in gaining advice from other professionals, using individual education plans and providing extra 1:1 support for children. The team are very aware of the individual needs of each child gained from information compiled by parents.
- The behaviour management policy highlights the importance of "promoting positive behaviour." The aim is to "create a busy, peaceful atmosphere." From observations the aim is aptly descriptive of the atmosphere provided. Praise and encouragement are given to the children. An effective partnership with parents has been established. The staff team highly value the importance of communication. Parents initially receive a leaflet and a detailed "parent's guide to the playschool." There are policies relating to partnership with parents, admissions, settling children in and confidentiality. Ongoing information is given through newsletters, notice boards, notes on the signing in table. Parents have the opportunity to attend open mornings, special events and social occasions. Parents are made welcome into the playschool and receive daily verbal feedback.

**What needs to be improved?**

- staff induction procedures and attendance records
- recording procedures for observations

**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 1 April 2004 ofsted has not received any complaints about this provider.

**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 staff induction programme and daily staff attendance records.
3	extend the observation sheets.

## **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.*