



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315244

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	27/10/2004
Inspector Name	Suzette Butcher

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Little Bears Playgroup
Setting Address	St. Margarets Church Hall, School Road Warrington Cheshire WA2 8ND

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Wendy Green
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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 Bears Playgroup and Breakfast Club has been registered for sessional care since 2000 and before school care since 2004. The group operates from two rooms in St Margaret's Church Hall in Orford, Warrington. The playgroup and breakfast club serve the local area.

There are 30 children on roll. Children attend morning or afternoon sessions in playgroup,

The group opens on 5 days a week for 41 weeks of the year. Sessions for breakfast club are from 08:00 to 9:00. Playgroup sessions are from 09:15 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 14:45.

There are three full and part-time members of staff and three voluntary members of staff. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 3 or DPP. Three volunteers are working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from Warrington Surestart.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Bears playgroup provides satisfactory care for children. The setting is organised with a high staff ratio to meet the needs of young children in their first pre-school setting. Staff are qualified or attending training in early years care and attend short courses to update their knowledge. Toys and resources for young children are available but there are limited resources to reflect diversity. Most policies and procedures are in place to inform staff and parents about the provision. Records of visitors and registers are not fully completed. There are also some omissions relating to children's illnesses and dietary needs.

Health and safety issues are given due consideration with regular risk assessments recorded. Staff are active in promoting health and hygiene routines with children. Staff are all aware of their duty to protect children and to provide equality of opportunity. Children and staff sit together at snack time where social and self-help skills are promoted.

Children are encouraged to make choices and to explore the whole range of play opportunities. The emphasis is on free choice to encourage young children to develop independence and self confidence. Opportunities to explore natural

materials and resources are limited. Staff relate well to children and use age appropriate strategies to manage behaviour and develop children's self-esteem.

Parents are actively involved in the setting as volunteers or visitors. There are good relationships fostered between staff and parents. Verbal progress reports and photographs of their child are shared with parents on a regular basis. Parental questionnaires returned indicate a good level of satisfaction with the quality of care provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed that an operational plan, special needs policy and accurate recording of the administration of medication to be created. The radiators are to be made safe for children.

An operational plan, special needs policy and accurate records of medication are now in place and meet regulatory standards. Radiators have all been made safe for children.

What is being done well?

- Children and parents benefit from the well planned settling in process where children gradually become familiar with the setting and staff. Parents are reassured about their child's well being through text messages or photographs.
- Children are encouraged to make choices and sessions are based on free play where children make their own decisions and are actively involved in learning opportunities. Toys and resources are easily accessed and children move freely around the areas to play on their own, with an adult or a small group of children.
- Children are encouraged to become independent in every day life skills such as toilet training, eating and drinking. The development of social, emotional and self-help skill is given high priority within the setting appropriate for the young age group of children attending.
- Partnership with parents is developed effectively through voluntary helpers, parent rotas, fund raising and open access. Photographs are taken of children playing in the setting to share with parents and staff members chat to parents about their child's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the recording of visitors to the premises and times of arrivals and departures of staff and children.
- the opportunities to explore natural materials and resources
- the policy on sick children and infectious diseases

- the sharing of information on children's special dietary requirements with relevant staff
- the resources and opportunities to promote diversity

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Maintain a record of visitors on the premises and times of arrivals and departure for children and staff.
3	Increase opportunities to explore natural resources and materials to learn about the environment.
7	Produce a policy document on the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious to be shared with parents.
8	Ensure that all staff members are aware of children's special dietary requirements.
9	Increase resources and opportunities to promote positive images of race, culture, disability and gender.

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.