



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 304974

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/11/2004
Inspector Name Sue Anslow

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Belgrave Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address 55-57 Five Ashes Road
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 7QS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Belgrave Pre-School 702183

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Belgrave Pre-School
Address The Community Centre
Five Ashes Road
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 7QS

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

Belgrave Preschool Playgroup is run by a committee of parents. It opened in 1973 and operates from Westminster Park community centre which is part of Belgrave Primary School on the outskirts of Chester. A maximum of 24 children may attend each session at any one time. The preschool is open each weekday from 09:15 to 11:45 with a lunch club available every day except Monday from 11:45 to 12:45. The group operates during term times only. There is access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 34 children aged from two and a half to five years on roll. Of these eleven receive funding for nursery education. The preschool supports children with special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The preschool employs seven staff. Six staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and one member of staff is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Belgrave Preschool Playgroup provides good care for children.

The qualified and experienced staff team work well together to provide interesting and stimulating activities for children attending each session. The large hall and adjacent outdoor play areas provides ample space and a wide range of play equipment is available to suit all requirements and promote learning in all areas of development. Written policies and procedures govern the smooth running of the group although minor amendments are needed to the behaviour management policy, the complaints policy and the policy for uncollected children.

The health and safety of the children is generally good, with registration systems in place ensuring security, regular fire drills and good hygiene promoted and practiced. Care should be taken to check premises before every session and portable appliances must have a certificate of safety. Healthy snacks are provided at every session and children staying for the lunch club bring their own food. Individual needs and requirements are respected and catered for and policies encompass the full inclusion of everyone equally. Staff have a satisfactory knowledge of child protection procedures.

A wide range of activities are provided, which promote children's development in all

areas. Activities are carefully planned and evaluated for interest and enjoyment. Children are given opportunities to be creative and imaginative and their learning and development is encouraged through exciting topics and themes. Staff enjoy warm relationships with the children, are vigilant and act as good role models, thanking children for their kindness and helpfulness. Children are praised and encouraged for good behaviour and any achievements, promoting confidence and self esteem.

Partnerships with parents is valued and promoted. Information is exchanged regularly through the key worker system and parents invited to participate on the committee.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure the safety of the outdoor play area and secure access outside from the reading corner. The front playground now has a secure fence round it and cars do not park in that area and when the back door is open during summer months a safety gate is secured across the doorway to prevent children going outside without a member of staff noticing. Both these actions ensure the safety and security of children in the preschool group. The provider was also asked to devise a risk assessment of the premises, ensure there was a record of all visitors and have a written policy for the administration of medication and sick or infectious children. These policies and records have been devised and are available for parents to read. They provide written confirmation of procedures so staff and parents can be sure of consistency and good welfare. The complaints policy still has contact details for Cheshire Council and should be changed to Ofsted, as the new regulator.

What is being done well?

- Staff are well organised and deployed effectively. Space and resources are used imaginatively to create a stimulating, orderly and supportive environment for the children. Effective teamwork and communication ensures that all staff have a good understanding of the needs of children in their care.
- There is a good balance of free play and adult initiated activities within the setting. Children are able to choose from a wide range of play materials which are easily accessible to them. They have freedom of movement to alternate from one activity to another.
- Children are settled, have warm relationships with staff and are keen to communicate with them. Children's emotional needs are met well, they are encouraged to make choices and share their thoughts, feelings and experiences. Staff show interest and praise their achievements and helpfulness.
- Children engage in themed activities relating to different cultures, religions and disability as a means of raising awareness and help children to value each other's similarities and differences.
- Children with additional needs are fully integrated into the group. Some staff

have received training and the group has effective procedures for sharing concerns with parents and liaising with external agencies which may be involved in supporting children's development.

- Parents are provided with good information about the group, its policies and procedures. They are well informed about activities and forthcoming events and invited to sit on the committee. Parents are kept well informed about their child's progress via the key worker system and staff have regard to information about the children's homes, families and individual requirements provided by parents before the child starts in the group.

What needs to be improved?

- procedures for uncollected children, managing bullying and the inclusion of Ofsted's details in the complaints policy.
- procedures for regularly checking portable appliances.

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.)

There are no complaints to report

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
6	ensure gas, electrical and other appliances and fittings conform to safety requirements and are checked regularly.
12	update policies and procedures including the complaints policy, uncollected children and behaviour management and make available to parents.

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.