

Name of setting: Hollies Road playgroup

Date submitted: January 2015 (updated July 2016)

Information supplied by: Sheila Neary (manager)

Title: Making first aid a priority in a voluntary based provision

Background detail

The EYFS states that ‘Providers should take into account the number of children, staff and layout of premises to ensure that a Paediatric First Aider is able to respond to emergencies quickly’. This case study has been developed to help us to identify best practice of how settings manage this requirement within the sector.

The nursery

All staff have a current Paediatric First Aid qualification, apart from one new member who will be booked onto the first course possible. At the inspection carried out by Ofsted in 2014 they reported “All staff have relevant first-aid qualifications. The provider ensures that all first-aid training is up to date and staff are aware of emergency procedures. Children are reminded about safety but are also encouraged to take well-supervised risks as they challenge themselves during play”.

Hollies Road Pre-School are a well-established setting, they have been operating since the early 1970s. As “Hollies Road Playgroup” they were located in Hollies Hall until September 2002 and first registered with Ofsted in 2003 when they moved to St. Mark’s Primary School. The setting has consistently been awarded ‘Good’ by Ofsted since registering. The setting is managed by a voluntary committee and is staffed entirely by parent volunteers past and present. The pre-school is open from 9.10am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. Children are cared for in two large playrooms and have access to an enclosed playground and wooded area for outdoor play.

Children attend from the local community, which is in an area highly ranked on the Indices of deprivation. There are currently 24 children on roll, four of these are funded two year olds and five are funded three and four year old children. It supports children with special educational needs and disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language.



Current arrangements in place

Sheila Neary has managed the setting for 16 years on a voluntary basis and has retained a team of volunteer practitioners throughout this time. Strong leadership and management with an emphasis on training volunteer practitioners have supported the setting to maintain quality. All staff are volunteers and most staff have childcare qualifications and all have had Safeguarding and full Paediatric First Aid training. Of the six staff members, three hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3, one at level 2 and one staff member holds Early Years Professional status.

About the practice

Considerations and assessment, managing the risk and staff

The number of children attending per day varies but the maximum is 22. The setting provides additional staff above the ratio requirements to ensure safety throughout the session. For most of the session all of the children and practitioners work together in one room so the environment would enable any practitioner to be at the scene of an accident quickly. As all of the staff are first aid trained, any of them could respond to an accident.

Accidents are immediately evaluated and risk assessed to prevent future reoccurrences, but the constant vigilance of the volunteers who are all parents themselves has kept accidents to minor incidents related to the development stages of the children e.g. grazes to knees.

Risk management processes are robust and regularly reviewed and updated as required. Staff have demonstrated how they follow these procedures and respond quickly to accidents. Clear policies and procedures guide the team to respond quickly to emergencies such as evacuation, external dangers and first aid. Staff carry out daily risk assessments on the indoor and outdoor areas, playground, woods and walks to and from school to ensure resources are suitable and the environment is safe. The whole team contributes to the overall risk assessment which is reviewed annually.

The children have access to a woodland area where exposure to well-supervised risk encourages them to think about how to keep themselves safe and those around them. Ofsted stated at their inspection in 2014 “Children are reminded about safety but are also encouraged to take well-supervised risks as they challenge themselves during play”.

Ongoing development and funding

Turnover of staff can be an issue for the setting due to the nature of working volunteers but they manage to consistently keep all staff trained in Paediatric First Aid. The setting can access training funded by the Local Authority for two members of staff within the team. This is not sufficient for this setting because of staff moving into paid work, but safety of children is a high priority for the setting so the setting will pay for additional staff to attend training if they have already used the Local Authority places. The setting has a budget plan in place for this training. The training takes place after work hours to accommodate everyone.



Maintaining Quality

Checks of ongoing confidence and understanding of staff

Arranging staff meetings can be a problem for the setting as this is one of the limitations of working with volunteers whose time is already being given to work with the children. Discussions in the team about issues that have arisen in other settings are discussed and informally reviewed to identify if there are any measures that could be put in place to reduce the risks in the setting.

Key points of good practice

- First aid is a key priority for all volunteers working within the setting
- High ratios and a whole team approach to first aid and safety of children being paramount
- Staff deployment is considered daily and additional staff are available for staff cover and more risky activities
- Opportunities to encourage children to keep themselves safe are provided through well supervised risks within play
- Investment in volunteers who are also parents and can take the learnt knowledge to their home life as well. For example, staff remembered to use the glass test on a rash that

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