



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY279371

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/11/2004
Inspector Name Linda Dawe

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Seedlings Pre School
Setting Address Dunstone Primary School
Shortwood Crescent
Plymstock
Devon
PL9 8QT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Seedlings Pre School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Seedlings Pre School
Address Dunstone Primary School
Shortwood Cres
Plymstock
Devon
PL9 8QT

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

Seedlings Pre-School opened in Spring 2004 and operates from a classroom within Dunstone Primary School. The pre-school is on a residential estate in Plymstock, which is on the outskirts of the city of Plymouth. It is run as a community business venture and is managed by a committee of local people including staff, teachers and parents. A maximum of 24 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is currently open each weekday from 09:00 to 15:30 for 37 weeks of the year, term-time only.

Seedlings has sole use of one classroom with its own toilets. There is also access to the large school hall, the school computer suite and library, and parents' room for quiet, small activities. The large playground outside the classroom is available for outdoor play. There are plans to fence an area of playground and grass surrounding the classroom, to give sole use of an outdoor play space.

There are currently 33 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 14 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from a wide catchment area. The pre-school currently supports a number of children with special educational needs. There are currently no children for whom English is an additional language.

The pre-school employs seven staff. Three of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and two staff are undertaking training.

How good is the Day Care?

Seedlings Pre School provides good care for children. Staff work well together and are committed to increasing their skills and knowledge of caring for young children by regularly attending training. The staff group children effectively to make sure they receive good support in their play. Space within the pre-school is organised well to provide children with a variety of activities appropriate to their ages and stages of development. However nappy changing facilities are very basic. Children can freely access toys and equipment from a well-balanced range.

Staff are very aware about children's safety both indoors and outside. They actively promote good hygiene practices by encouraging children to regularly wash their hands. Children are given regular snacks that fully meet their dietary needs. Staff

have a satisfactory knowledge of their responsibilities to protect children and are planning to increase their knowledge in this area by attending child protection training in the near future.

Children enjoy a wide variety of planned activities that help them make progress in all areas of their development. They regularly explore different cultures and religions and staff make sure children with disabilities are included in all activities. Children with special needs receive good support. Behaviour management strategies are age appropriate; children have clear boundaries that are explained to them gently but firmly.

Relationships with parents are good due to the staff's friendly approach and clear procedures that are well documented. However medication records are insufficiently detailed.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- A friendly welcome is offered to all parents and carers who are invited to talk to staff at any time or attend regular parents' evenings to discuss their child's progress and care.
- Staff are vigilant about security and effective measures are in place to make sure no-one can enter or leave the premises unnoticed.
- Staff obtain detailed information about children by completing a comprehensive questionnaire with each child's parent or carer. This, linked with effective grouping of children, means that staff get to know children well and can therefore meet their individual needs.
- Children's behaviour is managed well. Staff are positive, consistent and clear about their expectations regarding children's behaviour.

What needs to be improved?

- medication records
- nappy changing facilities.

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 April 2004 Ofsted has received one concern. In April 2004 a concern was raised under Standard 6: Safety about the lack of a fence around the pre-school and that the windows appeared flimsy and unsafe. Ofsted asked the provider to

investigate and send copies of any risk assessment on these areas. The provider confirmed that they are awaiting funding to erect a fence in the playground in order for children at the school to have outside play at the same time as the pre-school. The provider also confirmed that glass has been replaced with safety glass. No further action was taken by Ofsted and the provider remains registered.

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
4	Improve nappy changing facilities.
7	Ensure the written medication record is signed by 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.