



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127614

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/09/2004
Inspector Name Malini Parmar

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Michaels Pre-School Play Group
Setting Address Village Hall
Grange Road , St Michaels
Tenterton
Kent
TN30 6TJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Brigitte Watkins

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

St Michael's Pre-School has been registered since March 1992 and is privately owned and managed. It operates from The Village Hall in the St Michael's area of Tenterden. The group serves the local and surrounding area.

The pre-school is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 during term time.

There are currently 24 children on roll and the group offers support for children with special educational needs and for those whom speak English as an additional language.

Five staff work with the children, four have early years childcare qualifications and all hold current first aid certificates.

The group receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). They are also members of the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA).

How good is the Day Care?

St Michaels Pre-School provides satisfactory care for children.

Staff work well as a close team to provide a warm and welcoming environment in which the children are happy, comfortable and settled. Children in all areas of the nursery benefit from the established key worker system to promote secure relationships. There is a system for regular appraisal and staff meet periodically to ensure clear organisation. Space, is divided in to play areas and children have access to a balanced range of toys and resources. Children select these with ease and confidence. Majority of necessary records are in place and the group are working towards ensuring all mandatory records are in place. Staff are insecure in their knowledge of the groups policies and procedures.

The premises are secure and there are good procedures in place for safe arrival and departure of children. Attention to health and hygiene is satisfactory and children learn about hygiene through the routine. Children are provided with a range of healthy foods and drinks at snack time.

Staff work together and share responsibility for providing a range of stimulating

opportunities for children; children are having fun. Staff develop positive relationships with children and children are successfully engaged in purposeful play at freeplay times. Staff consistently praise and encourage children to raise confidence and self-esteem. They offer clear explanations for positive and unwanted behaviour.

There are effective systems in place to promote healthy partnerships with parents. Parents are provided with useful information upon entry and they report they are happy with the provision of care. Staff are available at every session to exchange pertinent information with parents. In addition the group use daily contact books.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to:

ensure children are unable to view irrelevant or inappropriate material, consider how screens can be used to enhance children's care and learning, consider how the kitchen can be made inaccessible to children and update the complaints policy.

Children are no longer able to view irrelevant material. Screens are now used to divide space effectively and enhance children's care and learning. The kitchen is now inaccessible to children and they have supervised access only. The complaints policy is now updated to include the relevant telephone numbers.

What is being done well?

- Staff work well as a close team to provide a warm and welcoming environment in which the children are happy, comfortable and settled.
- Children are provided with a range of stimulating opportunities. Staff develop positive relationships with children and children are successfully engaged in purposeful play at freeplay times. Children are having fun.
- Staff consistently praise and encourage children to raise confidence and self-esteem. They offer clear explanations for positive and unwanted behaviour.
- Partnership with parents, the use of daily contact books for all children to share pertinent information for all the children.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation- to ensure all mandatory records are in place, particularly child protection procedures and procedures to follow if allegations are made against staff and policies to be updated
- children's access to fresh drinking water
- staff's knowledge and understanding of the groups' policies and procedures.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown**

Std	Action	Date
13	Ensure that the child protection procedure for the playgroup complies with current legislation and develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.	22/10/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Maintain an accurate record of attendance according to arrival and departure times.
8	Ensure children have access to fresh drinking water at all times.
14	Update policies and procedures and ensure staff are secure in their knowledge of them.

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.