



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127613

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/01/2005
Inspector Name Linda Margaret Nicholls

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St. Michaels Pre School
Setting Address St. Michaels & All Angels Church Hall
Church Hill
Dartford
Kent
DA2 7EH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Michaels Pre School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Michaels Pre School
Address St Michaels & All Angels Church Hall
Church Hill
Dartfords
Kent
DA2 7EH

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 opened in 1977. It operates from the St Michael's and All Angels Church hall in Wilmington. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 34 children on roll aged two and half years to five years. This includes 23 funded three and four funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with special needs and those with English as an additional language.

The group opens four mornings a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:30 until 12:00.

Six full time members of staff work with the children. Five members of staff have early years qualification. Two members of staff are currently on a training programme. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

St Michaels Pre School provides good care for children. Paperwork is up to date and parents are informed of their child's progress and development. The organisation of the day care is well thought out. There is an operational plan which includes reviewed and dated aims, policies and procedures. Staff work well as a team and minimum qualifications are exceeded. An induction procedure for staff is in place. Paediatric first aid training is current. The registration certificate is displayed, although the daily register does not record the time of children's arrival or departure.

The safety and the care of the children is good. The premises are secure, visitors are challenged and their details recorded. The premises are clean and well maintained, and plans are in hand for the development of an external play area. Resources are stored securely. There are written fire procedures and drills are recorded. A daily risk assessment is undertaken. Medical and health details are recorded confidentially and individual requirements are met. Children are given choice at snack time and adults sitting with children take the opportunity to reinforce learning and confidence. A wide variety of equipment provide positive images of diversity.

The range and quality of activities is stimulating and encourages caring relationships

amongst children. Children are engaged and extend their play confidently whether in role play as medical staff in a hospital, or sharing dinosaurs at the dinosaur mountain. Children access craft materials directly. Children's sewing work and shape designs are displayed at child height. Senior staff are experienced and creative in their choice of activities to stimulate children's interest and learning. There is no current evidence of the impact of care for children with special needs.

The partnership with parents is supportive. Information is shared. Written agreements are in place and parents views are sought. Parents know how to complain.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- A key worker system is in place and children's progress is recorded and regularly reported to parents. There is an active parents committee which ensures all families are informed of the daily running of the group and the daily routine of their child. Parents are aware of their child's development and progress.
- Staff use consistent and positive strategies to manage children's behaviour. Appropriate praise is given. Children know the group rules, feel secure and play within clear boundaries.
- The staff plans stimulating whole group activities which encourage social interaction, the development of physical coordination, rhythm and the use of memory. Singing and clapping games engage every child. Children are happy in their play.
- The staff know the children well. They relate to the children in a friendly, warm manner. Children are growing in confidence and developing independence

What needs to be improved?

- the method of recording details of arrival and departure.

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 Ofsted 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
2	Ensure details of times of arrival and departure are recorded.

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.