



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 141880

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 27/01/2004
Inspector Name Stella Grace Dykes

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Twinkle Tots Playgroup
Setting Address Small Meeting Place
Glovers Lane, Heelands
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 7LW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Twinkle Tots Playgroup 1027459

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Twinkle Tots Playgroup
Address Small Meeting Place
Glovers Lane, Heelands
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire

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

Twinkle Tots Playgroup opened in 2001. It operates from a community hall in the north of Milton Keynes. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently 48 children from two and a half to four years on roll. This includes 31 funded three and four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Some of the children have special needs and the group supports some children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9:15 until 14:45. The playgroup day is divided into three, with morning, lunchtime, and afternoon sessions. The younger children in the group attend only in the mornings.

Eight full and part time staff work with the children. Four staff have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Twinkle Tots Playgroup provides good care for children. All aspects of the play group are well organised. Staff are guided by the playgroup's policies and procedures, and are clear about their roles within the group. The staff use posters, pictures, and children's art work to make the premises that they use attractive and colourful. The playgroup has a large stock of toys and equipment, and staff present them so that the children can easily reach them.

The necessary safety features are in place, and the staff make sure that children are properly supervised. The playgroup is effective in promoting the children's good health. Snacks and drinks promote a healthy diet, and meet with parents' wishes. The staff are confident in their role in child protection. The playgroup has a policy in place, but it lacks some detail.

The playgroup provides a range of well planned activities for the children, both indoors and outside. There is a sensible balance between child-led activities, and the more structured, adult-led play. The playgroup gives children the opportunity to learn about and to value diversity. Staff are skilful at managing the children's behaviour.

The playgroup has effective systems in place for developing good partnerships with parents. The necessary documents, policies and procedures are in place, although a few lack some minor details.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The staff spend time playing with the children, talking with them, and listening to what they have to say. They understand that some activities need adult support, rather than intervention. The children make choices about their play, and who they want to share it with. They play enthusiastically, and enjoy their time in the playgroup.
- The key worker system helps the staff to know the children well. They use this knowledge to plan activities that the children find interesting and challenging, and that help them to make progress.
- Toys and play equipment are attractively and imaginatively presented. Staff adjust and adapt the way that they are presented so that they continue to be inviting, and so that all the children have access to them.
- The staff value and encourage good behaviour. They praise children when they behave well, and deal sensitively and skilfully with any instances of poor behaviour. The staff work well together, and their co-operative approach is a good role model for the children.
- The playgroup has effective systems for developing good partnerships with parents. A staff member welcomes parents when they arrive, and the notice board and table in the entrance hall are used to give parents information about the playgroup. As well as the informal sharing of information that happens when children arrive and leave, parents and staff use the children's "home books" to keep each other informed. In addition staff set aside time each term to meet with parents. Parents and staff work together to get the best outcome for the children.
- The playgroup makes the wellbeing of the children its first concern. Staff are confident in their role in the protection of children, and additional training has helped them to further improve their knowledge and skills.

What needs to be improved?

- the system for recording the times that children arrive and leave so that it is clearer
- the recording practice when children are given medicines in the playgroup, so that a second member of staff signs as witness to the procedure
- the complaints procedure, so that Ofsted's address and telephone number are included

- the child protection policy so that it includes the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff or a volunteer in the playgroup.

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	review the system for recording the times that children arrive and leave to make it clearer
7	have a second member of staff sign as witness when children are given medicines in the group
12	amend complaints procedure to include Ofsted's address and telephone number
13	amend the child protection policy to include the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff

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.