



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 102940

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 07/01/2005
Inspector Name Lynne Stephanie Bowden

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Sithney Stepping Stones Pre School
Setting Address Sithney CPS
Crowntown
Helston
Cornwall
TR13 0AE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Sithney Stepping Stones Pre School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Sithney Stepping Stones Pre School
Address Sithney CPS
Crowntown
Helston
Cornwall
TR13 0AE

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

Sithney Stepping Stones Pre-School is a committee run group. It opened in 2000 and operates from the pre-school room in Sithney School. It is situated in Crowntown. A maximum of 15 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. The pre-school is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09:00 until 11:30 during term times only. All children share access to a secure enclosed play area.

There are currently five children from two to five years on roll. All five children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area.

The pre-school employs three staff. Two staff are currently working towards early years qualifications NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from an advisory teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Sithney Pre School provides good quality care for children. The person in charge leads the staff well. There is a high ratio of adults to children and staff are deployed well. The premises are welcoming with bright, interesting displays of the children's work. The pre school is well equipped with a suitable selection of resources. All documentation is readily available.

Staff encourage children to follow effective hygiene practices. Most safety issues are addressed well, though fire exits are not identified. Staff liaise with other agencies and make appropriate adaptations to meet individual children's needs. Snacks are attractively presented and children help themselves to the drinking water available, throughout the session.

Staff know the children well. They use this knowledge to plan and provide a wide range of appropriate activities, which children enthusiastically join in. They introduce children to different beliefs and cultures through discussion, activities and resources. Staff give children clear explanations about what is planned and expectations of their behaviour. They praise positive behaviour and the children behave well.

Parents are welcome at the setting. Information is readily available and informal systems keep them informed of their children's progress. There is no clear system to inform committee members of their roles and responsibilities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection the setting has produced and amended several policies and procedures in order to meet the national standards. These are detailed in the prospectus and available to parents. All necessary parental consents have also been sought and recorded.

A system is in place to record any medication administered and two staff have first aid training.

Records are maintained of adults and children's attendance. Staff records are kept on the premises and vetting procedures for staff and committee are implemented.

A current copy of their insurance policy is displayed. Risk assessments are carried out and the rear of the school building has been made inaccessible to the children.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan and provide a wide range of appropriate activities, which children enthusiastically join in. They know the children well. They use this knowledge and their assessments of children's progress to adapt activities, to meet their needs and help them progress. Adults encourage children's confidence and participation. They show interest in the children and value and respect their views and explanations.
- Snacks are attractively presented and are pleasant, sociable occasions. A proposed menu is displayed on the notice board for parents. Fresh drinking water is available throughout the session, which children confidently help themselves to, when they are thirsty.
- Staff manage children's behaviour well. They gain and maintain children's attention, ensuring that they listen to any instructions. Staff explain what is planned at the start of the session. They praise positive behaviour and tell children, clearly, the behaviours that will be rewarded. Knowing what is expected the children happily respond and behave well.

What needs to be improved?

- the identification of fire exits
- the system to ensure that the committee are fully informed and aware of their roles and responsibilities

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 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
6	Clearly identify fire exits.
12	Develop the system to ensure that the committee are fully informed and aware of their roles and responsibilities.

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.