



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127223

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/05/2004
Inspector Name Annie Williams

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Happy Feet Pre-School
Setting Address The Hamlets, Noahs Ark Road
Dover
Kent
CT17 0DD

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Happy Feet Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Happy Feet Pre-School
Address The Hamlets
Noahs Ark Road
Dover
Kent
CT17 0DD

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

Happy Feet Pre-School opened in 1994. It operates from the Ark Christian Centre in Dover. The pre-school has access to three rooms, toilets, a kitchen and an outside area. The pre-school serves the local area and surrounding towns.

There are currently 36 children on roll. This includes 14 funded 4-year-olds and 3 funded 3-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions each week. The pre-school supports children with special needs and those who speak English as an additional language. The pre-school opens five days a week term time only. Sessions are from 09.15 to 12.00 and from 12.00 to 14.45.

There are seven staff working with the children and of these six have an early years qualification and all attend short courses. The pre-school receives support from a Pre-School Learning Alliance fieldworker, a special needs advisor and a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Happy Feet Pre-school provides satisfactory care overall for children under five years.

Staff provide a caring and welcoming environment for young children. The manager of the setting is new and continues to update and develop the required records. Staff are committed, work well together and are developing an increasing knowledge of the policies and procedures. However they are unsure of child protection issues. Staff give high priority to children's safety and have clear procedures for the safe collection of children at the end of each session. Children learn about health and hygiene through staff encouragement and regular routines for hand washing. There are systems in place to ensure that at least one member of staff is on duty with a current first aid certificate and that the first aid box is replenished.

Staff make use of the space and resources. Children are able to move around freely and safely and enjoy regular outdoor play. Staff are interested in what the children do and say; talk and listen to them; praise and encourage them. Children are well behaved. They benefit from the ready availability of staff to share books and read to them; consequently children are frequent visitors to the book area. There is a varied range of toys and activities and staff work hard throughout the session to ensure that toys are regularly changed to hold the children's interest. Children receive a

generally well-balanced range of activities that promotes all areas of development but the large physical play sometimes lacks challenge for the more able children.

Parents and children are greeted warmly. Parents are happy with their child's care at the setting and an effective key worker system ensures children settle happily. They are kept informed through regular newsletters, but policies and procedure are not readily available. There are systems to ensure that records are accessible and retained appropriately, but systems to ensure secure storage are not yet in place.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection the setting has completed all actions with the exception of developing staffs knowledge and understanding of child protection which remains a recommendation of this inspection.

What is being done well?

- The manager and the staff are developing a strong team and are committed to developing the provision.
- Children benefit from the ready availability of staff to share books and read to them. Children enjoy books, know how they work and are developing an understanding that print carries meaning as they 'read' stories to their friends.
- Staff provide a welcoming environment to parents and their children. Parents and children are greeted warmly.
- Staff praise and encourage the children. Children are busy and staff ensure that the activities are changed regularly. Staff are interested in what the children do and say, respond to their interests, praise and encourage them, consequently children are well behaved.
- There is an effective key worker system in place consequently children are happy and well settled.
- There are effective procedures for the safe arrival and collection of children

What needs to be improved?

- staffs knowledge and understanding of child protection
- the continued development of reviewing and updating the policies and records
- information given to parents
- the development of the outside area, so that more able children receive challenges in their physical programme.

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

| Std | Recommendation |
|-----|---|
| 3 | Develop the use of the outside area paying particular attention to the challenges set for more able children. |
| 12 | Develop ways in which policies and procedures can be made readily available to parents. |
| 13 | Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. |
| 14 | Continue to review and update policies, records and procedures and ensure that they are stored securely. |

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.