



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 218244

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/05/2004
Inspector Name	Jacqueline Ann Gerrard

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Thomas Pre-School
Setting Address	Wade Centre, The Avenue Kidsgrove Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST7 1AG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St Thomas Pre-School Committee
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St Thomas Pre-School Committee
Address	c/o 10 Westmorland Avenue Kidsgrove Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire ST7 1AT

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 Thomas Church Pre-school opened in 1980. It operates from the Wade Centre in Kidsgrove and has access to a large room, toilets and a kitchen. The playgroup serves the local area.

There are currently twenty children from two to five years on roll. This includes ten funded three-year-olds and one funded four-year-old. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports children with Special Needs.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 11:30.

Four staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and the Pre School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

St Thomas Pre-school provides good quality care for children. The premises are safe, clean and tidy. Procedures are in place to ensure staff have a consistent approach to their work through staff meetings and induction training. Commitment to obtain relevant qualifications is demonstrated by staff attending training courses. There are well-documented policies and procedures in place.

There are effective procedures to ensure children are safe at all times both indoors and outdoors. Healthy eating is promoted in the setting and staff work in partnership with parents to meet children's dietary and individual needs.

Staff promote the development of children's understanding of good hygiene practices through daily routines. Toilet and changing facilities are adequate. There is good support for children with special needs. Child protection procedures are in place and fully understood by staff.

Staff plan and provide a broad range of practical activities, which develop children's knowledge and understanding. Staff monitor children's development through the use of development records and progress reports obtained through observations and

evaluation of activities.

There is a varied range of interesting toys and equipment available for children to self-select which supports all aspects of their development. Resources reflect positive images of minority groups. There are effective strategies in place to manage children's behaviour and children behave well.

There is a positive partnership with parents and carers. There are good procedures to make sure parents are fully informed of how the setting operates and how their child is progressing. Parents are encouraged to take part in their child's learning.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the following actions were made; to seek written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

This has been implemented to ensure all parental consents are obtained to ensure the well being of all children.

Ensure at least half of all childcare staff will hold a level 2 qualification in childcare and for the supervisor to hold a level three qualification. Staff have obtained relevant levels of qualifications.

What is being done well?

- There is good use of the key worker system where individual needs of the children are met and areas of their development are identified.
- Children respond to staff's clear guidance and praise and are happy settled and confident.
- Activities are presented in an interesting and thoughtful way, which includes items labelled to promote early reading skills.
- The setting has good procedures in place to promote the health and safety of children, which includes all relevant parental consent.
- There are well-written procedures and documentation to ensure parents are well informed of the group's operation and policies. Information leaflets, notice board, opportunities to raise concerns and a complaints procedure are all available.
- There is good exchange of information on children's progress.

What needs to be improved?

- the location of toilet facilities and the arrangements for nappy changing.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
4	develop plans to replace the toilet facilities and arrangements for nappy changing.

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.