



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY222661

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	02/03/2004
Inspector Name	Elly Bik-Kuen Wong

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	North East Pre School
Setting Address	Byron Road Southampton Hampshire SO19 6FH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of North East Pre-School 1055320
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	North East Pre-School
Address	Thornhill Primary Byron Road, Thornhill Southampton Hampshire

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

North East Pre-school has been registered since the late 1970's. It is a community pre-school owned and managed by a parents committee, and offering sessional care to children from two to under five years. The pre-school is situated in a separate building in the grounds of Thornhill Primary School. It consists of a large play room with a separate wet play area, and adjacent office, toilets, kitchen, and outdoor play facilities. The pre-school serves the community in Thornhill and surrounding areas of east Southampton.

It is the pre-school's policy to accept children from 2 years 9 months upwards. There are 61 children on roll, including 40 funded 3 year olds, and 18 funded 4 year olds. The pre-school is able to support children with special needs, and those who speak English as an additional language.

There are seven staff, two of whom are full-time; and usually five of them work at each session. All but one staff have relevant qualifications for their roles, while the remaining member is currently on a training programme.

The pre-school opens during term time only; from Monday to Friday between 09:15 and 11:45, and between 12:12 and 14:45. The pre-school receives support from the Early years Development and Childcare Partnership. It has been awarded accreditation by the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

The pre-school provides good quality sessional care for children from two to under eight years.

The pre-school is well established with an experienced and qualified staff team. It offers a warm, welcoming, and child-centred environment conducive to children's learning. It has close links with Thornhill Primary School and the local community. The spacious setting offers a wide range of stimulating resources for children to learn through play. The staff work well as a team, and are committed to further training. They provide children with close personal attention, and make them feel secure and confident. There is a good operational plan and comprehensive documentation. However, the staff will benefit from strengthened induction procedures and extra training opportunities. In addition, certain records need to be more rigorous.

The staff are safety conscious and care for children in a safe and secure manner. They follow good hygiene procedures and also teach children about them through the daily routine. The staff work with parents to meet health, dietary, and other requirements.

The staff interact well with children; they talk to them, praise and value them. They are also pro-active in meeting individual needs, and caring for a range of abilities. The staff plan and provide a wide range of interesting and age appropriate activities to help children make progress in all areas of development. The children can access toys and books easily, and are happy and engrossed in their play. They are also encouraged to explore, and make own choices about play. The staff use positive behaviour strategies, and children's behaviour is good. The staff respect children's differences, while treating them with equal concern.

The staff team have close, warm relationships with parents, and liaise closely with them over their children's progress. They share information effectively through informal and formal means, although extra facilities for displays will be welcome.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection, hot water has become available in the children's toilets, which enhances the hygiene facilities, and prevents the spread of infection.

What is being done well?

- The pre-school is well run by the experienced staff team, who work well together and show commitment to further training. Its operation is guided by clear policies/procedures and plans. Six out of seven staff have relevant qualifications, with three at level three (one working towards level four).
- The premises are spacious, with many permanent play areas and accessible storage to help children explore and make own choices in play. There are plentiful age appropriate toys, books, and displays, including those for promoting positive images of diversity.
- The staff interact well with children. They also provide a very good variety of themed activities, including imaginative role play and learning about the environment. Children play happily; explore, investigate and learn at their own pace.
- The staff are pro-active in meeting individual needs, including dietary, health and other requirements. Children with nappies can attend; and designated staff liaise with parents and agencies over the care of children with special needs. They respect children's differences, and treat them with equal concern.
- The staff praise and value children. They give them consistent boundaries, and handle children's behaviour in a sensitive manner, suited to their understanding. They anticipate and prevent undesirable behaviour by keeping children occupied.

- The staff care for the children in a safe, secure, and hygienic manner. They help children to learn about good hygiene/safety creatively through group role play and singing, and through the routine of hand washing.
- The staff have excellent relationships with parents and close links with the local community. Parents feel welcome to drop in and discuss their children's progress with staff. Key workers keep records and meet regularly with parents to discuss their children's progress. Parents are also well informed through written policies, daily feedback sheets, notices, and newsletters.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The staff teach children about road safety in an enjoyable and creative way by combining knowledge of the world with imaginative role-play. A couple of road safety attendants, also called 'lollipop men', are invited to visit the pre-school, and they have an open air session with the children about how to cross roads safely. Their road safety message is then reinforced by the children re-enacting the demonstration given by the visitors. Lines are drawn on the ground to indicate a make-believe road. Individual children then dress up as 'lollipop ladies' or 'lollipop men', and they hold up the traffic-warning props ('lollipops') made by themselves on the previous day, to divert traffic and help the other children to cross the road safely. The children are observed to have lots of fun, and the role-play about crossing road safely appears to have left an indelible mark on their memory. The activity offers them direct concrete learning experience rather than just a lecture about road safety, and is well geared to the children's level of understanding and maturity.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, such as records for visitors and staff attendance, as well as fire drills, to provide all necessary details
- extra display facilities, to further improve information sharing with parents
- procedures for inducting new staff and volunteers; and training opportunities for staff in a wide variety of childcare subjects relevant to the setting.

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	Strengthen procedures for inducting new staff and volunteers; and further enhance training opportunities for staff in a wide variety of childcare subjects relevant to the setting.
4	Review displaying facilities to further improve information sharing with parents.
14	Improve documentation such as records for visitors and staff attendance, as well as those relating to fire drills, to provide all necessary details.

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.