



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 305324

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/11/2003
Inspector Name Sylvia Cornock

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name St Mary's Catholic Pre-School
Setting Address Belgrave Avenue
Congleton
CW12 1HT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name . St Mary's Catholic Pre-Sch Com

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. Mary's Catholic Pre-school is affiliated to the Catholic Primary school in Congleton in whose grounds it sits. It is administered by a committee of parents and operates from a newly erected mobile building consisting of two large playrooms, kitchen area and toilets (an outside play area is currently being constructed). The group serves the local community and surrounding areas.

There are currently 26 children from two and half to five years on roll. This includes 15 funded three year olds and no funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Full day care is offered so that children can attend two sessions in one day, and more than five sessions in one week. The lunch time is an optional link time between the normal sessions, when children staying must bring in a packed lunch. The setting currently supports children with special needs. There are no children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during term times. Sessions are from 9.00a.m. to 12.00.noon and 12.45p.m. to 15.15p.m., the lunch club operates from 12.00.noon to 12.45.p.m.

There are seven members of staff of whom the supervisor holds NVQ level 3 qualification in childcare, and one member NVQ level 2 in childcare, this member is currently undertaking NVQ level 3. Two other staff members are also undertaking NVQ level3 in childcare. The group is supported by a teacher from the Early Years Development Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Overall the day care is judged to be satisfactory.

The organisation of the day care is satisfactory with daily attendance records being accurate and up to date. Improvements in the organisation of the sessions including staff deployment are still required. Equipment levels are good, although reorganisation of resources into accessible storage needs completion. The environment is spacious and bright, but use of play and display space needs further attention.

The safety and care of the children is satisfactory, and improvements such as child protection training and use of equal opportunity resources have been achieved.

Special needs are being adequately catered for. Staff attend to hygiene and first aid requirements well, and keep the environment clean and clear of hazards. Use of the risk assessment needs improvement.

The range and quality of the activities is satisfactory, although staff need to be more proactive in children's learning, to ensure they get the most from each session. This includes staff taking every opportunity to encourage and value good behaviour.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory, with parents questionnaires indicating satisfaction with the care and enthusiasm given to individual children, however requesting more feedback about what children have been doing in sessions. Parents should be made aware of all the updated policies including the updated complaints policy.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the pre school agreed to inform Ofsted of any changes and to provide an action plan on how staff qualifications are to be met. The setting has informed Ofsted of recent changes and most staff are currently attending relevant training in child care.

They agreed to ensure that persons who had not been vetted would not be left unsupervised with children and that staff deployment would ensure that ratios of adults to children were adequate. Persons who have not been cleared through the vetting procedure are now supervised at all times, however the deployment of staff still needs improvement, to ensure children are supervised appropriately.

They also agreed to improve certain aspects of their policies and procedures, including equal opportunities, risk assessment, uncollected children, fire officers and environmental health officers recommendations. The setting has produced written policies and procedures addressing most of the issues, however these need to be further developed to include regular fire evacuation practice and the regulators details in the event of a complaint.

They agreed to provide the opportunity for children to have access to the full range of equipment, including promoting equal opportunity and ensuring the boundaries for behaviour were implemented. New attractive storage and shelving has been purchased, which is at children's level enabling them to freely access, including resources for promoting equal opportunities. Some improvement has been made in behaviour management, but this still needs further development, to ensure all staff promote good behaviour.

What is being done well?

- The procedure for registration of all children attending, taking into account the different hours of attendance offered, ensures staff are aware of how many children are on the premises, in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- There are good equipment levels and a wide range of play materials which are safe and interesting.

- Staff promote good health and hygiene, they ensure children understand the importance of washing hands and they sanitise tables before snack time.
- There is a emphasis on equal opportunities. Children with special needs are supported and given help to take part in everyday activities.

What needs to be improved?

- Increase staffs awareness, and plan the daily routine to ensure they are working directly with the children, making appropriate use of the two rooms with the correct adult child ratios being met at all times.
- Ensure staff take more opportunities to questions and respond to children, in order to support their individual learning, as they undertake the range of activities including their involvement at snack time.
- Organise space to increase the area of play space and simplify storage so that children are more involved in getting toys and equipment out and putting them away. The utilisation of wall space, so that the environment is more welcoming.
- Ensure that the risk assessment is used as a tool to act promptly to resolve identified risks, such as, the high fridge temperature. They also need to make sure all children have practiced and understand the fire evacuation procedure.
- Staff should take every opportunity to encourage and value good behaviour, and that methods for dealing with behaviour such as running or going on the climbing frame are consistently applied.
- The special needs policy, to be updated referring to the Code of Practice 2001; the policy on complaints to include the name, address and telephone number of the regulator.
- Parents should be made aware of these policy changes, along with more information being provided on their child's progress.

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
2	Ensure staff increase their awareness of the distribution of children to ensure they are working directly with children and the correct adult child ratios are being met at all times. Plan the daily routine so that children are grouped to make full and appropriate use of the two rooms
3	Ensure staff consistently take more opportunities to question and respond to children in order to support their individual learning as they undertake the range of activities.
4	Consider organisation of space and utilisation of wall space, so that the environment is more welcoming and increases the availability of play space. Complete the reorganisation of equipment and toys into accessible storage, and simplifying storage so that children could be more involved in getting out and putting itmes away.
6	Ensure that the risk assessment is used as a tool to act promptly to resolve identified risks, such as, the high fridge temperature.
6	Ensure all children have practiced and understand the fire evacuation procedure
10	Update the policy document to be updated to include new legislation on special needs and parents need to be made aware of this.
11	Ensure staff take every opportunity to encourage and value good behaviour, and that methods for dealing with behaviour such as running or going on the climbing frame are consistently applied
12	Ensure the complaints policy is included into the new policy document, so that parents are made aware of how to complain
14	Ensure all parents are made aware of all the updated policies and have regular feedback about their child's development

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.