



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY257643

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 30/01/2004
Inspector Name Ann Field

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Medmenham Pre-School
Setting Address The Community Centre
Medmenham
Marlow
Buckinghamshire
SL7 2EU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of RAF High Wycombe Pre-School Group
107150

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name RAF High Wycombe Pre-School Group
Address Naphill
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

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

The Medmenham Pre-school has been open for over 30 years. It operates from the Royal Air Force (RAF) Community Centre on the outskirts of Marlow. The pre-school serves the local area and children attend from both civilian and RAF families.

There are currently 28 children aged 3 to 8 years on roll. This includes 15 funded 3-year-olds and 11 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group supports two children who have special needs; no children currently attend who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 09:00 until 12:00.

Four staff work with the children. Three have early years qualifications and one is on a training programme. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The Medmenham Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children. The staff ensure that the resources are available to enable children to take part in a variety of activities. They encourage children to make their own choices and decisions. The children have easy access to equipment and good use is made of the premises. Policies and procedures are in place, but some are not fully up to date.

The staff have an understanding of safety issues and most safety hazards have been identified. However, levels of staff supervision are low for short periods of time. Areas for promoting children's good health and protection have been addressed. The snack time is well managed and children are encouraged to learn good personal hygiene habits. Staff ensure children with special needs are fully included in all activities.

Staff plan their activities to ensure a varied range of experiences, both indoors and outside. They provide a balance between child-initiated play and adult-led activities. The staff know the children well and take account of individual needs. They have a positive approach to managing children's behaviour and there are clear boundaries in place. The children behave well.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. They are kept well informed

about the daily activities and are happy with the service provided. All the relevant paperwork is in place, but occasionally lacks the necessary detail.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Children participate in a wide range of interesting and exciting activities, which are very well resourced; they make choices about their play. Good use is made of the space. There are some colourful displays of work ensuring that the children are provided with a stimulating and interesting environment. Staff interact enthusiastically in children's play and take time to talk, listen and ask them questions. There is a selection of resources reflecting positive images available. These help children develop positive attitudes and an understanding of the world.
- Staff manage the children's behaviour in a consistent and age-appropriate way. There are clear boundaries in place, which ensure children have a good understanding of what is expected of them. Behavioural incidents are recorded and shared with parents. Staff place a strong emphasis on developing children's social skills so they learn to care for and co-operate with one another. Children behave well. There is plenty to keep them occupied and they are given constant praise and encouragement.
- Snack time is well managed. The staff provide an area where the children can sit and enjoy a social time. They come to the table throughout the morning to help themselves to a choice of drink and fresh fruit.

What needs to be improved?

- safety, to ensure that different routes of escape are used during fire drills and that the floor in the snack area does not pose a hazard when wet
- supervision of the children, to ensure that the correct adult to child ratio is maintained at all times
- records, so that there is a detailed record of all visitors and written parental consent is obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- documentation, so that the complaints policy provides details on how parents may contact Ofsted, and the child protection policy is revised to set out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or a volunteer working in the setting.

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 that the correct adult to child ratio is maintained at all times.
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.
14	Revise policies to ensure they include Ofsted's contact details and information as to how an allegation of abuse made against a member of staff is managed.

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.