



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 508616

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	15/07/2003
Inspector Name	Jean Goodrick

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Mendlesham Pre-school
Setting Address	Community Centre Old Station Road, Mendlesham Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 2RT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Kay Wiseman
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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

Mendlesham Pre-school opened thirty one years ago. It operates from the community centre in the village of Mendlesham. The pre-school serves the local area.

The pre-school is registered to care for no more than twenty six children from two years to under five years at any one time. There are currently thirty nine children from two to five years on roll. This includes twelve funded four-year-olds and sixteen funded three- year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The pre-school supports children with special needs.

The pre-school opens five days a week during school term time. Sessions are from 09:00 am until 12:45. Children may stay for lunch. The pre school is planning to open for afternoon sessions.

Two full-time and four part-time staff work with the children. Two have early years qualifications. Two staff are currently on training programmes and staff regularly attend training days and workshops. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Mendlesham Pre School provides satisfactory quality care for children.

Staff work well as a team and are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They are well qualified and experienced and open to new learning. There is a high adult to child ratio so that children receive individual support. There is a comprehensive framework of policies and procedures to ensure the safety and welfare of children. Staff are particularly well qualified in health and hygiene. However, some procedures need improvement.

Staff provide a wide range of stimulating activities so that children make progress in all areas of their development. They have warm, affectionate relationships with the children. Staff listen carefully to the children, have lively conversations with them, and encourage the children to explore and investigate. Staff treat the children as individuals and ensure that their needs are met. They give plenty of praise and encouragement and are good role models for the children. Staff ensure the environment is colourful, attractive and welcoming to children and their parents.

There is a good partnership with parents. Parents receive information about the pre-school and they are kept up to date with their children's progress. Staff are available to talk to parents on a daily basis. Staff also have a good working relationship with the local primary school.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed staff and visitors would be included in the registration system, that unvetted adults or students would not be left alone with children, that there would be a procedure for lost and uncollected children, that the child protection procedures would be improved to include procedures for allegations against staff, that there would be a procedure for outings, that incidents would be recorded in an incident book, and that necessary contact numbers would be easily accessible. Visitors and staff are now included in the registration system, unvetted adults and children are not left alone with children, there is a procedure for lost and uncollected children and for outings, there are child protection procedures for allegations against staff, incidents are now recorded, and contact numbers are accessible.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a wide range of exciting activities so that children make progress in all areas of their development.
- There are high adult to child ratios so that children receive individual attention and support.
- Staff have warm affectionate relationships with the children. They listen and respond respectfully to the children and treat them as individuals so that children feel valued and develop good self esteem.
- Staff are well qualified in health and hygiene practice. They are confident in carrying out procedures for the health and safety of the children.
- The staff team are well qualified, work well as a team and are open to new learning. They are able to reflect on their practice and improve the organisation for the benefit of the children.
- Staff have a good partnership with parents and with the local primary school so that children are able to make a smooth transition to school

What needs to be improved?

- fire safety, so that fire drills are held regularly;
- health procedures, so that parental consent is obtained for emergency medical treatment;
- partnership with parents, so that policies and procedures are easily accessible;
- equal opportunities practice, so that there are more positive images of

difference e.g. disability and ethnicity;

- registration systems, so that times of arrival and departure are recorded;
- the complaints procedure, so that the position of Ofsted is clear.

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	improve registration procedure by recording times of arrival and departure
6	improve fire safety procedures by carrying out regular fire drills
7	improve health procedures by obtaining parental consent for emergency medical treatment
9	improve equal opportunities practice by obtaining more resources which reflect positive images of difference e.g. disability and ethnicity
12	improve the complaints procedure so that it is clear that Ofsted is the registering body

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.