



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127671

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/05/2004
Inspector Name Cilla Rachel Mullane

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Tadpoles Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address Sports Pavilion
St Mildreds Road
Ramsgate
Kent
CT12 4DE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Ruth Burton

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

Tadpoles Pre-School opened in 1995. It operates from the sports pavilion in Minster, Thanet. One room is available to the children, with a kitchen and toilets. There is a large playing field available for outside play. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 22 children on roll. This includes 9 funded 3-year-olds and 2 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Staff have experience of working with children who have special needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens from 09.00 until 11.45 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 09.00 until 15.15 on Tuesdays during school term times.

There are five staff who work with the children. Three have early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Tadpoles Pre-School provides good care for children aged two to under eight years.

Staff are qualified and experienced in working with young children. They are competent and work well as a team. An appraisal system is used effectively to identify future training needs. Space is well organized to meet the children's needs effectively. The environment is warm and welcoming to children and parents. Clear policies, procedures and records underpin the day to day running of the pre-school, although some details need updating.

The premises are safe and clean, with procedures in place to identify and eliminate hazards. Health and hygiene procedures are mostly effective. Mealtimes are relaxed social occasions, and staff promote children's independence. Staff have up-to-date knowledge of child protection issues, enabling them to act appropriately with concerns.

Children are happy to enter the pre-school and approach staff confidently. The quality of staff to child interaction is especially good, with adults working closely with the children, supporting and extending their play and learning. Children are happy and stimulated, with planned, exciting activities covering all areas of development, and opportunities for small group work. Individual children's needs are known and

generally met, and all children are included. Planning of activities is done on an individual basis. There is an appropriate equal opportunities policy, which is understood by staff. Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in good behaviour and secure, confident children.

Staff work in partnership with parents, and parents are satisfied with the standard of care, and the informal exchange of information about their children's development and activities. Parents are given written information about the curriculum and the provision. Informative achievement and activity books are also shared with parents.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- There is a well-qualified staff group, who have attended many short courses, showing a commitment to learning more about childcare and raising standards.
- Space is used effectively to meet the children's needs, and there are sufficient well-qualified staff that are clear about their duties and responsibilities. Staff deployment is excellent, with staff supporting children, and extending their play.
- There is a good balance between adult directed activities and free play. Interaction between staff and children is excellent, and relationships are positive. Children's individual personalities and achievements are valued and they are made to feel good about themselves. Staff work at the same level as the children, show affection and make eye contact. They listen to children's contributions and ask open-ended questions. As a result, children are confident and happy.
- Activities are set out, both inside and outside, so that the children feel welcome. Parents and children are greeted warmly. Lots of parents stay to settle their children, and stay to chat at the end of the session, so helping the children to feel safe and secure.
- Staff have an excellent knowledge of children's individual needs, which are met by planning for individuals and working with parents. There is a trained special educational needs coordinator, and evidence of working with parents in the best interests of children with special needs.
- There are consistent strategies for managing children's behaviour, in policy and observed in practice. The children are calm and confident, know their boundaries and are generally well behaved.
- Activity and achievement books are kept for the children and shared with parents. Thought is given to making them informative and interesting. Parents are informed about themes and activities. Parents' meetings are held to give parents up-to-date information, for example about the Foundation Stage and the early learning goals.

What needs to be improved?

- procedures for obtaining staffs' written permission for copies of their police checks to be kept on the premises
- the child protection policy, so that it refers to local procedures, and includes a procedure to be followed if allegations are made against a member of staff
- medication records, so that they include sufficient detail
- the registration procedure, so that times of attendance for staff and children are recorded.

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
7	Ensure that medication records contain sufficient detail.
13	Ensure child protection policy contains sufficient detail.

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.