



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 106238

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	22/01/2004
Inspector Name	Michael Collins

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Tadpoles Pre-School
Setting Address	Highampton Beaworthy Devon EX21 5LE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Tadpoles Pre School
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Tadpoles Pre School
Address	Highampton Beaworthy Devon EX21 5LE

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 was established in 2001. It takes place in Highampton Primary School near Beaworthy in Devon, and is part of Highampton Area Pre-school Group. This is a registered charity and is managed by a committee of parents and interested others. It serves the rural village of Highampton and the surrounding area.

The pre-school is registered to take nine children aged three to five-years-old. There are currently four children on roll, none of whom are funded. The pre-school is able to support children with special needs, and children where English is an additional language, although none currently attend.

The pre-school operates on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:45 to 15:15 during term-time only. Two members of staff are employed to accompany the children to the reception class in the school, where they work with the class teacher, to introduce the children to school life. The officer in charge from the pre-school is qualified to level three, and holds a first aid qualification. It is planned for the second member of staff from the pre-school to obtain an NVQ 3 qualification. The pre-school is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and took part in their accreditation scheme in January 2001.

How good is the Day Care?

Tadpoles Pre-school provides good quality care for children. The operational plan is comprehensive and mainly works well in practice. However, it does conflict with school's operational plan. Staff are committed, motivated and work well together. The pre-school offers a good amount of space for children to move around, including a variety of outside play facilities. There is a very good selection of equipment, which is well maintained and easily accessible to children.

Children are well cared for in a safe and secure environment. Effective procedures for risk assessment and fire safety are in place. Staff encourage personal hygiene very well. However, procedures for the administration of medicine are incomplete. Staff keep good records about children's dietary requirements and drinks are readily available, although food is not provided. The staff actively promote equality of opportunity issues. They are able to meet the needs of children with special needs, or those with English as an additional language, although none are currently attending. Staff have a good working knowledge of child abuse and child protection

issues. However there is some confusion about child protection procedures.

Children's learning and development is supported very well. Staff plan a wide range of activities covering all six areas of learning and the early learning goals. Staff manage children's behaviour consistently and actively promote good behaviour. As a result, children's behaviour is exemplary, and they appear happy and actively engaged.

The pre-school works in partnership with parents extremely well. Parents are kept informed about the setting and their children's development. Parents are actively encouraged to participate in the management and day to day running of the setting.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The setting has made good progress since its last inspection and has completed all of the actions required. They have done this by: ensuring all staff are subject to vetting procedures; making all records accessible and available for inspection; making sure drinking water is available to children at all times; producing an action plan for staff training and ensuring that staff are appropriately qualified.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan and organise a very good range of activities that are clearly linked to the early learning goals and assist children in all areas of development.
- Staff are organised and deployed well to meet the needs of all children, and the adult to child ratio is very good.
- Staff value and support good behaviour particularly well, and their approach to behaviour management is appropriate and consistently applied.
- Parents are encouraged and supported to participate in the setting, and staff are committed to working in partnership with parents.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The pre-school is working in partnership with Highampton Primary School to gently introduce four-year-olds to school life. Children who will be attending the school within two terms, are taken to the reception class by two members of the pre-school staff, for two afternoons per week, prior to full-time school attendance. Pre-school staff stay with them in the class to introduce and support children through each session. Should parents choose to do so, they may use their government funding to use this service, or they may continue to use their funding at the pre-school.

What needs to be improved?

- joint policies and procedures, particularly child protection and behaviour management
- procedures for the administration of medication.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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 operational policies of both the registered body and the school do not contradict each other and that both staff and parents are aware of joint policies or agreements.
7	Ensure parents sign to acknowledge each dose of medicine administered.
11	Ensure the existing behaviour management policy includes a statement and procedures for bullying.
13	Ensure that the child protection policies and procedures for the setting are jointly agreed with the school and that all staff and parents are aware of these.

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.