



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 142953

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/06/2004
Inspector Name Michelle Tuck

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Merryfield Preschool
Setting Address St Mary & St Peter First Schl
Copse Lane
Ilton
Somerset
TA19 9EX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Merryfield Pre-School 1045061

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Merryfield Pre-School
Address St Mary & St Peter First School
Copse Lane, Ilton
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 9EX

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

Merryfield Pre school is a committee run pre school based in a portacabin within the first school grounds in the village of Ilton. The group offer morning sessions with the option for children to stay on for an extended period for lunch. They have use of a tarmac outdoor play area, and large grass area.

They are open from Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 13.15 term time only.

The Pre school is registered to receive funding for 3 and 4 year olds. The group support children with special educational needs. They have no children attending with English as an additional language.

A total of five childcare staff are employed. The Manager has a Diploma in Pre school Practice and her Deputy has an NVQ 3 in Childcare and Education.

How good is the Day Care?

Merryfield Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children.

Staff create a warm and welcoming environment for the children and parents. Posters and children's work is well displayed which contributes to this. The staff support the children well in their play and learning by interacting with them and guiding them appropriately.

The children enjoy good relationships with the staff. The staff know the children well, there is an organised routine which is flexible to take account of the children's interests and different needs. Children are generally well behaved, know the rules and usually obey them. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are used consistently and the staff are good role models.

Staff are active in carrying out procedures outlined in policies to ensure the safety of the children. This includes regular risk assessments. Most documentation is maintained. Nutritious snacks are provided for the children and allergies and dietary needs considered.

Staff work well in partnership with parents and parents are very supportive to the group. Copies of policies and procedures are available to the parents and they are kept informed about the provision and their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to produce an action plan detailing how minimum toilet and hand basin requirements will be met including time scales. The children in the pre-school can use the school toilets in addition to the one in the pre-school if necessary. They were also to conduct a risk assessment of the premises, this now happens. Procedures for outings are now in place. The group also agreed to include the name of the regulator on the complaints procedure, this still needs to be addressed. They were to include in the child protection policy the procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. This also still needs to be addressed.

What is being done well?

- There is a good range of activities on offer to the children which are excellently resourced and supported by staff to help the children make progress in all areas of development.
- The sessions are well organised but remain flexible to take account of children's interests and changing needs.
- Partnerships with parents are good . Parents are given good information about the provision and their child's progress. Parents give their support to the group in various ways.

What needs to be improved?

- details of complaints procedure
- statement of procedures to follow if child became lost
- detail of child protection policy.

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
13	ensure child protection policy includes procedure to follow should an allegation be made against a member of staff.
2	ensure there is a statement of procedures to be followed if a child becomes lost.
12	ensure complaints procedure includes contact details of the regulator.

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.