



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 116839

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	30/09/2004
Inspector Name	Elizabeth, Claire Price

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Josephs Nursery Group
Setting Address	Berkshire Drive Tilehurst Reading Berkshire RG31 5JJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Maureen Petersen
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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

St Joseph's Nursery Group was established in 1987 and is located in the church hall of St Joseph's Catholic Church. The intake of children reflects the make-up of the local church community and it serves the needs of families in the area.

St Joseph's Nursery provides for children between the ages of 2 and a half and 5 years old. There are currently 27 children on roll. This includes 6 funded 4-year-olds and 18 funded 3-year-olds. The setting supports children with special needs and children who have English as an additional language.

The nursery opens Monday to Wednesday and Friday between 09:15 - 11:45 and Thursday between 12:40 - 15:10 term times only. There are three staff who work with the children; one is a qualified teacher. All staff hold current first aid certificates. The group works closely with the serving priest.

The nursery is supported by the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and liaises on a regular basis with the local Catholic school.

How good is the Day Care?

St Joseph's Nursery group provides good quality care to children. The staff work well as a team and provide close attention to the children's needs with a high staff to child ratio. Some staff hold qualifications in childcare although the requirement for approved levels of qualifications is not achieved. The premises are well maintained, bright and attractive with a child friendly environment. Toys and resources are readily accessible, attractively displayed and provide a good range for the children attending. All required documentation is available although some lacks the necessary details.

Staff conduct regular checks to identify hazards to children's safety and record annual risk assessments. They work together to promote children's safety and security whilst they have fun and all aspects of health and safety are in place. They encourage children to develop awareness of personal hygiene and independence in their personal care. Staff provide children with regular snacks and drinks and liaise with parents to ensure awareness of children's individual needs. Children are well supported by the staff team and all children are treated with equal concern.

The staff organise and plan a good range of interesting and stimulating activities for

the children. Staff respond promptly if children need help and interact well with them. They use praise and encouragement appropriately to develop positive behaviour. Children co-operate and play well together as a result of the effective methods used.

The staff are open and friendly, encouraging parents to feel welcome and involved in their child's care. Information is provided to parents about the group although the policies and procedures are not readily available. Verbal feedback is available on a regular basis and parents can speak to their child's key worker to discuss any concerns or requests for information.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff offer a good range and balance of stimulating activities with good variety planned in the routine. This encourages children's interest and promotes their confidence. They interact well with the children and parents and work hard to provide a safe, welcoming and attractive environment.
- Staff have good strategies in place to promote positive behaviour and children are well behaved and co-operate with staff. Staff are consistent and offer positive praise and encouragement to children in their work and play. Individual children's needs are given equal concern and respected.
- Staff encourage children to learn about hygiene and develop independence in their personal care. Staff have all procedures in place for care of sick or injured children and liaise with parents over dietary and medical needs. Snack time is social and staff and children share conversation.
- The group is well resourced and staff ensure children have a wide range to choose from at each session. The resources are well presented at each session to attract children's interest and encourage their curiosity.

What needs to be improved?

- staff qualifications, to ensure that at least half of all childcare staff hold a level two qualification appropriate for the care or development of children
- parents access to group policies and procedures, to ensure they are readily available
- documentation, to include times of attendance of staff, children and visitors, recording of daily safety checks and to include guidance to contact Ofsted regarding any concerns for a child's welfare

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
2	Develop an action plan to show how the requirement for at least half of all staff to hold a level 2 qualification will be reached.
6	Develop methods of recording daily safety checks to identify any hazards to children or staff.
12	Ensure parents are able to access copies of the group's policies and procedures.
14	Ensure the times of attendance for children, staff and visitors are recorded.
14	Ensure Ofsted are informed of any concern for a child's welfare.

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.