



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127367

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/11/2004
Inspector Name Jackie Liffen

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Marden Pre - School Playgroup
Setting Address Memorial Hall
Goudhurst Road, Marden
Tonbridge
Kent
TN12 9JX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Marden Pre - School Playgroup 801721

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Marden Pre - School Playgroup
Address Memorial Hall
Goudhurst Road, Marden
Tonbridge
Kent
TN12 9JX

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

Marden Pre-School opened in 1969. It operates from a large room in the memorial hall in the village of Marden. It serves the local area and is open five mornings a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 12:00.

The pre-school have a small, enclosed outdoor garden.

There are currently sixty-six children from two to five years on roll. This includes thirty-three funded three-year-olds and seventeen funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs, although none speak English as an additional language.

Nine part-time staff work with the children plus a special needs helper and an auxiliary helper. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level II or III.

The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and are members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Marden Pre-School Playgroup provides satisfactory care for children.

The ratio of staff to children is good and they have a continuing system of ensuring that training needs are met. A very useful operational plan is in place detailing various aspects of care, and the group tries to organise space and resources to meet the children's needs effectively. They understand the benefits of restricting the numbers of children meeting in any one room in order to create a quieter more industrious environment where children feel safe secure and welcome.

The pre-school plans and provides activities and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities and understand that all children are different whilst acknowledging and valuing these differences. They are able to promote the well being and development of children with special needs and employ a co-ordinator who has attended a number of specific courses. Adults

are able to manage children's unwanted behaviour in a considerate manner and at the children's level.

The provision has a risk assessment in place and are able to check all areas for safety before the children use them. Staff are active in promoting good hygiene by ensuring that children wash their hands regularly under running water, which is thermostatically controlled. Children can help themselves to a drink and nutritional snack at any time. Staff are aware of child protection procedures and are able to maintain confidentiality when necessary.

The documentation is very good and the group are able to use the records to enhance their relationship with parents who are very pleased with the care that their children receive.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection the group have sought advice regarding the provision of a quality service. They have re-constructed the garden, put a lid on the water butt and obtained a suitable safety surface. Staff have also reviewed the policies and procedures, updating as necessary. They have started to consider how they can reduce the numbers of children in any one room.

What is being done well?

- The committee ensure that Ofsted is notified of all relevant changes and have an effective procedure for the appointment and induction of new members of staff. All staff and committee members have criminal records bureau (CRB) checks.
- Staff are interested in children's conversations and achievements and record key information in pocket notebooks to transfer eventually onto children's records. They crouch down to the children's level when interacting with them and offer lots of encouragement and praise.
- Parents are invited into the group to help on a rota basis and are informed about their children's progress on a regular basis. They have formed a strong administrative committee and keep written policies and procedures neatly filed and up-to-date.
- Regular risk assessments are carried out in order to maintain safety arrangements and children's hygiene is promoted by encouraging them to wash their hands regularly under thermostatically controlled running water. They also use disposable towels.
- Children can help themselves to a drink at any time and are able to choose from a variety of nutritional snacks. Staff are vigilant about checking whether children have allergies.

What needs to be improved?

- the number of children received regularly in one room
- the layout, comfort and security of the book corner
- the separation of different activities
- safety in the garden with regard to the gates

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
4	Ensure that generally only 26 children are received in any one room.	12/04/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
3	Consider how to make the provision for books more attractive and comfortable
4	Consider how room dividers could enhance the provision.
6	Ensure safety in the garden with regard to the gates.

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.