



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100522

DfES Number: 580216

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/01/2004
Inspector Name Samantha Powis

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Clements Pre-School Playgroup
Setting Address St Clements Church Hall
St Clements Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH1 4DZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Elaine King

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

St Clements Pre-school is a privately owned group which runs in the church hall close to the local first school. It serves the local community. They are registered to care for 26 children aged from two to under five years.

Children use the main hall, and a smaller side room, with access to toilets. There is a kitchen facility, which children do not have access to. An enclosed grassed area to the rear of the hall is used regularly for outdoor play.

The group is open each weekday from 09:00 until 11:30, they also run a lunch club from 11:30 until 12:45. The group operates during term time only.

There are 10 staff working directly with the children. The owners, who are also the manager and deputy, each have a level four qualification in childcare. Two staff have a level three qualification, and three other staff have a level two qualification in childcare. Three more staff members are currently working towards a level two qualification.

The group have 34 children on roll, with 23 funded three year olds and 7 funded four year olds. The group support children and families who have English as an additional language, and special needs.

The group receive support from the Bournemouth Early Years and Childcare Partnership. They take part in the Bournemouth Quality Standards Assurance scheme.

How good is the Day Care?

St Clements Pre-school Playgroup provides good quality care for children. The operational plan ensures staff and parents are familiar with the aims of the group, and all documentation is well organised and stored effectively. The registration system ensures that there is an accurate record of children, staff and visitors to the setting at all times. The building is made to appear welcoming to children and

parents with good use of display boards, demonstrating children's work and providing information to parents, well maintained resources and toys are set out very well to look appealing to the children.

Staff give high priority to ensuring children's safety whilst attending. Clear written policies are adhered to in practice, and health and safety arrangements are regularly reviewed. The procedures in place for first aid are good, records relating to the administration of medication and accidents are effective in general. The individual needs of each child and family are respected within the setting, and staff work with parents to provide any additional resources necessary. Staff have a very good awareness of the child protection procedures, and act professionally should they have any concerns.

Children are involved in an excellent range of interesting and stimulating activities. Staff are well deployed and make good use of space. Children are engaged in stimulating project work to develop their all round abilities. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of each child's needs, with effective procedures in place to monitor their development, they use excellent questioning and interaction to challenge children's thinking. Behaviour is managed very well.

Very good relationships are established with parents to ensure the individual needs of each child are met. Parents are given regular opportunities to discuss their child's developmental progress with staff. Good information is given to parents about the playgroup, and their ideas are sought and valued.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The group have made good progress since the last inspection.

They were asked to ensure parents were well aware of the policy for administering medication to children. To address this issue, they have made this and all other policies easily accessible to parents, and discuss them with parents when their child starts at the setting.

What is being done well?

- Children are provided with a broad range of interesting and stimulating activities, which are appropriate to their individual needs. Staff plan a varied curriculum which covers all areas of learning, and they are deployed effectively to support children and offer appropriate care.
- Documentation is very well organised. It is produced and used effectively to support the day to day running of the setting. Appropriate procedures are in place to maintain confidentiality, when storing records relating to the children and staff.
- Partnerships established with parents are excellent. They are provided with good information about the setting, and have ample opportunities to share information about their child, and discuss their child's progress with their key worker. Parents are made to feel welcome within the setting, and their

suggestions and opinions are valued and respected.

- Children's safety is a priority throughout the session. There are effective procedures in place to maintain safety, including having a high ratio of staff to children. Staff are familiar with health and safety procedures which are regularly reviewed.

What needs to be improved?

- procedure for recording administered medication, to ensure parents are fully informed of any administration.

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	Obtain written confirmation from parents to acknowledge they are aware that medication has been administered.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

St Clements Pre-school Playgroup offers high quality nursery education, where children are making very good progress towards the Early Learning Goals. Progress in the area of creative development is generally good, with progress in the remaining five areas of learning being very good.

Teaching is very good. Staff use excellent open ended questioning during activities to extend children's learning and understanding. They encourage children to question their own ideas and to develop a "have a go" approach, offering constant praise and encouragement to build self-esteem and reward children's efforts. Comprehensive assessment records are maintained on all children, and are used to plan the next steps in each child's learning. Activities are very well planned, plans demonstrate how an activity can be adapted to meet the needs of all children. Planning encompasses all areas of learning to ensure children are offered a broad range of experiences. Staff apply a consistent approach to behaviour management, and have realistic expectations according to a child's age and level of understanding.

Leadership and management is very good. Excellent support is offered to staff, including training opportunities and the sharing and valuing of skills. Staff and management work well as a team, taking an equal share in daily responsibilities. There are very good systems in place to monitor the effectiveness of teaching and the nursery education, and for assessing their own strengths and weaknesses.

Partnerships with parents are very good. They are provided with regular information about their child's progress, and have regular opportunities to share what they know about their child, which is then used to plan the next step in each child's development. Parents are given comprehensive information about the setting, which is updated with newsletters giving information on forthcoming projects and topics, enabling parents to become involved with their child's learning at home.

What is being done well?

- Teaching is very good. Staff interact very well with children and use an excellent range of teaching methods to encourage children's natural curiosity as learners. They offer good support and encouragement to extend children's confidence and self esteem.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is a particular strength. They are confident within the familiar Pre-school routine and are developing good relationships with adults and other children, learning to share, take turns and co-operate. They are secure within the fair and consistent boundaries established by staff and respond very well to the staff's excellent use of praise and encouragement.
- Children are developing well in the area of mathematics. They confidently

use numbers during their play, and enjoy the stimulation offered when given mathematical problems to solve.

- Children's communication, language and literacy skills are developing very well. They talk confidently to each other and in a group situation. They are introduced to an extensive range of vocabulary through a wide range of exciting projects and activities. They show great enjoyment when using books, and demonstrate a good awareness of print.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to use their mark making skills to identify their own work.
- opportunities for children to use their imagination during craft activities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

St Clements Pre-school Playgroup has made very good progress since the last inspection. They were asked at that time to develop staff confidence in managing children's behaviour. Staff have attended training and the staff team have reviewed their policy regarding behaviour management. They are now confident in this area and apply a consistent and positive approach, which reflects in the very good behaviour observed from the children.

They have greatly improved their programme for knowledge and understanding of the world by introducing additional ICT equipment such as tape recorders, dictaphones, digital cameras and, the soon to be installed, computer. The action taken has been successful in addressing the issue raised.

They were asked to enhance the programme for language and literacy and mathematics, which they have done. They have successfully introduced additional opportunities for children to record their findings when participating in maths activities. They do encourage children to develop their mark making skills, offering items such as white boards and clip boards, however, some opportunities are missed to encourage children to write their names on work they have completed.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are secure in the behavioural expectations established by staff, and are generally very well behaved. They respond positively to the constant praise and encouragement offered by staff. They develop good relationships with adults and other children and work well together during activities, learning to share, take turns and play co-operatively. Children concentrate very well, and become engrossed in the range of stimulating and interesting activities on offer.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Very Good

Children have excellent opportunities to use their own writing as a means of communication and recording. They independently use emergent writing in the role play area. Children listen carefully to stories, and show enjoyment and pleasure in books. They handle books carefully and appropriately when using the book corner independently, demonstrating an awareness of text and pictures. Children speak confidently to other children and adults, and are introduced to a wide range of vocabulary.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children have many opportunities to use numbers throughout everyday activities. Many children count with confidence up to 10. They work within an environment that is rich in examples of numerals, and through this, are developing an awareness of numerals, enabling them to label a small set of objects. Children enjoy being given simple mathematical problems during practical activities. They confidently use their knowledge of number and number position to suggest possible solutions to problems.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children have excellent opportunities to explore and investigate the properties of objects. They listen with interest and confidently question and challenge changes and differences they observe. They are encouraged to record their observations to share with others. There are many opportunities for the children to learn about their own cultures and beliefs as well as engaging in a wide range of stimulating and fun activities which raises their awareness of the beliefs others.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children's fine motor skills are developing well, they skilfully use a wide range of tools and equipment to successfully complete a task. They have many opportunities to develop an awareness of their own bodies and how to keep healthy. Children demonstrate a good awareness of space when using the wheeled vehicles and have very good opportunities to practice climbing and balancing on a range of exciting equipment.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Generally Good

Children have good opportunities to use musical instruments and show an interest in how they sound. They join in enthusiastically with singing, using actions to accompany the songs. Children engage in a range of activities to explore using all their senses, tasting, feeling and smelling a range of foods and substances. There are few opportunities for children to use their imagination when participating in craft activities.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- There are no significant weaknesses to report, but consideration should be given to the following:
- increase opportunities for children to use their imaginations during craft activities.
- encourage children to use mark making when labelling their own work.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

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.