



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY276829

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/11/2004
Inspector Name Anne Dowse

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Meadows Pre-School group
Setting Address Downfield JMI School
Downfield Road, Cheshunt
Waltham Cross
Hertfordshire
EN8 8SS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Downfield JMI School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Downfield JMI School
Address Downfield Road
Cheshunt
Waltham Cross
Hertfordshire
EN8 8SS

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

Meadows Pre-School opened in January 2004. It operates from two classrooms in Downfield School, Cheshunt. The rooms are purpose built classrooms with adjacent toilets. A separate staff room and kitchen are also available. The group serves the local area.

There are currently 38 pre-school children on roll. This includes 17 funded 3 year olds. Children who have special needs or speak English as an additional language are welcome. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The setting offers wrap around care following on from the statutory nursery session and the pre-school currently operates three days a week; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, term time only. Sessions are as follows: pre-school 09:00 to 11:30, lunch-time club 11:30 to 12:45, wrap around care from 12:45 to 15:15 hours.

Two part time and four full time staff work with the children. Both the manager and deputy manager are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from a qualified teacher and the 'Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership'.

How good is the Day Care?

Meadows Pre-School provides satisfactory care for children. A consistent staff group help provide a warm and welcoming environment where the children are happy and settled. Staff are committed to ongoing training and are deployed effectively, enabling children to be well supported. Relevant policies underpin the day to day running of the group, although the policies are not shared with parents of the children attending the wrap-around care.

Staff interact well with the children, initiating conversations and developing their language skills. This is particularly good during the lunch club, which is very calm and relaxed. The daily routine enables children to learn about safety and good hygiene practice, however, no fire drills have been initiated in the pre-school and an electrical socket is not covered in the wrap-around classroom.

Children have formed good relationships with each other and staff. Key worker groups help to make the children feel secure and confident. Staff use appropriate

behaviour management strategies and are good at promoting positive behaviour, giving regular praise and encouragement.

The setting has a good range of toys and resources, including those which reflect the diversity of the world we live in. These are organised to enable children to make free choices and become independent. A stimulating and balanced range of activities are offered, which help children progress in all areas of their development.

Partnership with parents is good. Detailed information from home is shared with the group before a child commences. Parents are encouraged to share in their child's learning, through newsletters, notice board and sharing books between pre-school and home. Good settling in procedures are in place. All parent's questionnaires throughout the day care are positive and state that their children are happy and settled.

What has improved since the last inspection?

'Not applicable'.

What is being done well?

- Positive behaviour is promoted through regular praise and encouragement. Staff appropriately intervene, thus defusing situations before they arise. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are in place.
- Staff interact with the children well. They talk to them, asking open ended questions to encourage language development. They listen to the children and respond to their needs. Children are happy and settled. Good social interaction takes place at snack and lunch times.
- A broad range of stimulating and interesting activities are offered to the children. A range of malleable materials are put out daily, for example, sand, water, paints, dough and gluing. Good opportunities are made for children to use their imagination through role play and creative modelling. Children freely share books and participate in outdoor play.
- A good range of toys and resources are available. These are age appropriate, stimulating and easily accessible to the children. They help promote equality of opportunity.
- Partnership with parents is good. Parents are involved in their children's learning and information is shared on a regular basis. Parent's questionnaires are all positive.

What needs to be improved?

- the sharing of written policies with all parents
- the safety around electrical sockets
- the procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

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
6	Ensure regular fire drills are carried out and recorded. This refers to the pre-school room. Ensure that a statement of procedures to follow in the event of a fire is displayed in the room used for wrap-around care.	18/11/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
14	Ensure written policies are available to all parents.
6	Ensure the electrical socket in the room offering wrap-around care, is inaccessible to children.

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.