



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 316434

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 13/01/2005
Inspector Name Gillian Patricia Bishop

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name St Vincents Pre-School Group
Setting Address St Vincents Parish Centre
Caldershaw Road
Norden
Rochdale
OL12 7QL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Vincents Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Vincents Pre-School
Address St Vincents Parish Centre
Caldershaw Road, Norden
Rochdale
Lancs
OL12 7QL

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. Vincent's Pre-School opened in 1987. It operates from the Parish Centre which is a detached building within the grounds of St Vincent's Primary School. The premises are situated in the Norden area of Rochdale. A maximum of 26 children may attend the setting at any one time. The group is open every weekday from 09:00 to 11:30. There is also a wrap around facility which is available each day which extends the session from 08:30 to 12:30. Children have access to the school playground for outdoor play.

There are currently 23 children aged 3 to under 5 years on roll. All these children receive funding for nursery education. Children attend from the local catchment area. Systems are in place to support children with special educational needs. There are currently no children attending who have English as an additional language.

The setting employs seven members of staff, four of the staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

St Vincent's Pre-School Playgroup provides good quality care for children. The well established staff team work very well together and display a willingness to access further training courses which enables them to develop the care and education they provide. The environment is very clean and maintained to a high standard and issues of security are appropriately addressed. However the current risk assessment for outdoor play needs to be further developed. The indoor play space is creatively used to provide a variety of activities and access to the good range of toys, equipment and resources. All documentation systems are in place.

There are successful procedures in place to ensure children's health and safety with the setting is well promoted. Everyday routines introduce children to issues of health and personal hygiene. Snack time is a relaxed and social time where staff and children sit together and chat but it is also recognised as a good opportunity to discuss healthy eating and other related theme work.

Children are welcomed, listened to and well supported by staff. Children are very confident and happy in their environment which encourages their enthusiasm and eagerness to participate in the full range of interesting and well planned activities. Individual needs are well known and supported to ensure children participate at their

own rate, however children's independence skills are not always promoted. Children's behaviour within the setting is very good.

Relationships with parents are good. Effective communication systems are in place to ensure parents are fully informed of their child's progress and well being. Parents receive an information booklet about the practices within the setting and the curriculum that is promoted.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the time of the last inspection a number of actions were made in relation to the settings operational plan. An action plan was requested to advise Ofsted how the required level of qualified staff would be met and how systems would be developed to ensure appropriate staff records would be kept, including evidence that staff had been vetted. Various written policies and procedures such as child protection, no smoking, outings and medication needed to be developed. The setting were also required to address some safety issues both in and outside the building.

The setting has made very good progress with regard to these actions and all have been suitably addressed. The managers confirmed that the required number of qualified staff are now in place. Staff records are kept and current vetting procedures have now been introduced. All relevant written policies and statements have been devised and are made available to parents. Access to the stage has been restricted to protect children from potential danger. The issue of security within the school playground has been addressed by developing a risk assessment . However the risk assessment does not provide sufficient detail about the procedures implemented by staff to ensure children remain safe when playing outdoors. A further recommendation has been made within the current inspection.

What is being done well?

- The children are happy and well supported by appropriately deployed staff. Space is well organised which ensures the large playroom is effectively utilised to provide a variety of familiar play areas for children to work and play. Children benefit from the familiarity they have with their environment which ensures they feel safe and secure.
- The setting has established good safety procedures to ensure children within the environment move around safely and under close supervision. Children are made aware of potential dangers such as ' not to run or jump off the the climbing frame'. They are familiar with the procedure taken during fire drills so they have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Written policies and procedures such as 'risk assessment' are routinely used as a working tool to identify and address potential hazards.
- Children's behaviour within the setting is very good as a consequence of the clear and consistent messages they receive from staff. Incidents of poor behaviour are remote as children demonstrate an ability to share and wait patiently for turns. Children are polite and respectful of others and they will listen with great interest to other children sharing their news while they wait

patiently to share their own.

- Children have developed close relationships with staff and their peers and they enjoy opportunities such as 'registration time' to share their news as a group. Children become confident speakers as they are regularly encouraged to talk about their experiences and share their ideas.

What needs to be improved?

- the risk assessment for outdoor play
- opportunities for children to help and be independent at snack times.

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 have been no complaints to report.

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
4	expand the current risk assessment for outdoor play to outline the procedures staff follow to ensure children's safety.
8	provide more opportunities for children to be independent and responsible during snack times.

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.