



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 134322

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	30/09/2004
Inspector Name	Jill Milton

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	First Steps Pre-School
Setting Address	Guide Headquarters Southern Road Thame Oxfordshire OX9 2ED

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Tracey Louise Daubney
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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

First Steps Pre-School opened with the present owners in December 1997. It operates from one room in a Girl Guide hut situated within a public park in Thame and it serves the local area.

There are currently 36 children on roll, including 19 three-year-olds and 1 four-year-old who are in receipt of nursery education funding. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group can support children with special needs and for whom English is an additional language. The group opens on weekdays during school term time, from 09.15 to 12.00 and also from 12.45 to 14.45 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

There are three full time and three part time staff working with the children and half of them hold suitable childcare qualifications.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

### How good is the Day Care?

First Steps Pre-School provides good quality care for children. The staff work well as a team to ensure the smooth running of the daily routine. There is a positive attitude to developing the pre-school and training is attended to develop skills. The routine provides children with a good mix of experiences, with time for free-play and large group activities. The staff have a good understanding of what documentation to keep and most aspects are now in place. The pre-school presents a warm and welcoming environment to families and areas used by the children are kept clean. Staff make good efforts to overcome the difficulties of limited storage and overall they provide a broad range of suitable activities. At times some activities are not so well presented and do not effectively stimulate the children's interest and learning.

The staff pay good attention to the health and safety of the children. They ensure that, between them, first aid training is regularly updated and they have parent contact details to hand if a child becomes unwell. Staff have an appropriate awareness of child protection issues and know how to act if they have concerns for a child. Snacks and drinks are provided during the session and some variety is introduced through the week.

The children play happily during their time at the pre-school and they enjoy group times when songs are shared and birthdays celebrated. The staff are good at working with small groups to support their play, for example getting involved in construction activities or sharing books. Care is shown to all the children and they are gently encouraged to participate. Behaviour is managed well and staff know how to support children with special needs. In some sessions few resources reflect different cultures and backgrounds.

A good partnership with parents is in place and staff are welcoming to families. Parents can share informal discussions and can access progress records at times during the year.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable.

#### **What is being done well?**

- The staff care for the children well and help them to become familiar with the pre-school routine. The children are gaining confidence in tasks like changing their clothes for physical activities and taking part in circle time.
- The staff pay attention to safety issues and have methods to remind them to check for hazards. When using the park area they take note of any potential concerns and ensure that on longer outings they have the proper safety procedures in place.
- Behaviour management is well handled, with an emphasis on positive encouragement. The staff have realistic expectations of the younger children in the group and keep the sessions flowing so that they do not become too restless. The children are well behaved overall and are learning how to sit with their friends, for example at shared snack time.
- The supervisors of the pre-school have a positive attitude to improving the group. They have spent time and effort in creating the policies for the group, which are personal to their circumstances.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the presentation of some activities to sustain the children's interest and to challenge and stimulate their learning
- the information provided to parents to ensure they know how to contact Ofsted
- the selection of resources to provide the children with positive images of other cultures, ethnic backgrounds and disabilities
- the registration procedure so that times of children's late arrival or early departure are recorded.

<b>Outcome of the inspection</b>
Good

<b>CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION</b>
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

## **WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**

<b>The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection</b>	
Std	Recommendation
5	Improve the presentation of some activities to provide more stimulation and challenge to the children's learning.
12	Ensure that parents have contact details for Ofsted in case they wish to make a complaint.

## **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.*