



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY217236

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	20/05/2004
Inspector Name	Hilary Preece

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	St Mary's Pre School
Setting Address	St. Marys Church George Street Watford Hertfordshire WD18 0EG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Playgroup Committee of St.Marys PCC
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Playgroup Committee of St.Marys PCC
Address	George Street Watford Herts WD18 0EG

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 Mary's Pre School opened in 2002. It operates from St Mary's Church Centre in central Watford, and it serves the local community.

The pre-school is registered for 24 children per session and there are currently 49 children from 2 years to 3 years on the roll. This includes 27 funded 3 year olds. Children are admitted from the age of 2 years 9 months and attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon.

The group is run by a committee made up of church members and staff. Seven part-time staff work with the children. Most of these staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3 or are working towards an early years qualification. The manager is a qualified primary school teacher and has undertaken Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator training. The pre-school is currently taking part in a quality assurance scheme and hopes soon to be awarded the Hertfordshire Quality Standards kite mark.

How good is the Day Care?

St Mary's Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children. The staff generally organise the provision well. The majority of staff have early years qualifications and this is reflected in the quality of care promoted throughout the pre-school. Staff ensure that children have access to a wide range of resources and activities. They have developed a thorough set of policies and procedures that are generally understood by all staff.

The staff are effective in promoting good health and hygiene practices and safety is generally given high priority. Most staff have received training in child protection, though this could be further developed. They provide snacks that are on the whole healthy and nutritious. Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs. They operate a key worker system that ensures that children have a designated adult responsible for their progress and development. The children present were generally confident and able to approach adults for support and praise.

The staff plan activities and schemes of work in advance that provide a balanced curriculum to ensure all areas of children's development are promoted. Children are able to access resources easily and staff encourage them to be independent and make choices. There is provision for children with special needs, though this could be developed further. There are appropriate and consistent strategies for children's behaviour. Children are generally responsive to requests to tidy up and behaviour is good.

The staff have developed mostly positive relationships with parents. The parents value the friendly welcome they receive from staff. The pre-school shares general information through newsletters and notice boards. However, procedures for informing parents about their children's progress could be developed in order to enhance their practice.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable. This is the first inspection since registration.

What is being done well?

- The pre-school staff have established very good relationships with the children. They plan a wide range of stimulating activities that enable the children to learn through their play and make progress in all areas of their development. The children present were happy, confident and related well to the adults present.
- There is a good range of toys and equipment that is used creatively by staff to link with planned activities and themes. Children have equal access to resources and are able to select what they want to play with. This encourages their independence.
- The pre-school promotes the good health and hygiene of the children through their daily routines and thorough written practices. All staff are qualified in first aid for young children.
- The pre-school staff have a calm and consistent approach to managing behaviour. They act as good role-models to children and help develop their self-esteem through praising and valuing them. As a result, children are good listeners and well-behaved.

What needs to be improved?

- the procedures for recording daily attendance
- the procedures for staff induction and support
- knowledge and understanding of special needs and child protection issues
- the arrangements for sharing information with parents

Outcome of the inspection
Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<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?

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
10	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of special needs issues and legislation and work towards being proactive.
12	Provide opportunities for parents to receive regular information on their children's progress.
13	Develop all staff's awareness of child protection issues and procedures, and review regularly to ensure that it is understood.
2	Ensure the daily record of attendance shows the times of arrival and departure of children, outside of normal session times, and that names of visitors are recorded.
2	Develop the staff induction programme to ensure that all staff are fully aware of policies and procedures, and that staff progression is monitored.

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.