



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 141824

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/03/2004
Inspector Name	Stella Grace Dykes

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	TMA Helping Hands Pre-School
Setting Address	2 Church Hill Two Mile Ash Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK8 8EQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of TMA Helping Hands Pre-School 1078623
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	TMA Helping Hands Pre-School
Address	2 Church Hill Two Mile Ash Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK8 8EG

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

Two Mile Ash helping Hands Pre-School opened in 1999. It operates from a community building that, at other times, functions as a church. It is in a residential area, close to schools and shops. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 45 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 22 funded three-year-olds and 7 funded four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Some of the children have special needs, and the group supports some children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens for five days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 11:45

Six full time staff work with the children, and four other workers provide cover for staff training and sick leave. Two staff have early years qualifications and three are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

The pre-school is a community group, and is managed by a committee that includes some of the parents of children who attend.

How good is the Day Care?

Two Mile Ash Helping Hands Pre-school provides good care for children. It is a well-organised group, where staff training is given a high priority. The group operate an effective key worker system and staff roles are well defined. The areas that the children use are bright and attractive, with children's art work on display. The pre-school has a stock of good quality toys, play materials and play equipment, which are stored so that the children can easily reach.

The staff make sure that the areas that the children use are safe. They take steps to promote the children's health and wellbeing, and act in their best interests if they are ill. The children are offered a variety of healthy snacks and drinks that conform to parents' wishes.

The staff plan and present interesting and challenging play activities for the children. There is an effective balance between child led, and the more structured, adult led play. The pre-school offers opportunities for the children to learn about and to value

diversity. The staff are skilled at managing children's behaviour, which is generally good.

The pre-school thrives on parental involvement. A committee of volunteer parents manages the group and employs the staff. Staff work in partnership with parents, and keep them informed about their children's progress. Most of the necessary records, policies and procedures are in place, although a few lack some minor detail.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The staff develop good relationships with the children. They spend time playing with them, talking to them, and listening carefully to what they have to say. This fosters the children's developing sense of self-worth, and they are happy and settled in the pre-school.
- The pre-school provides children with a broad range of activities to choose from, which staff support appropriately. Children explore, investigate, and make decisions about their play. They are interested in what is on offer, and play enthusiastically. Staff use their observations of the children to inform their future plans, so that children continue to make progress.
- The pre-school provides healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks for the children. There is an excellent system in place to ensure that the children only have what is suitable for them. Staff sit with the children at snack times, so that they are sociable occasion. The children enjoy sharing with friends, and can practice their social skills.
- The staff give the children good opportunities to learn about the wider world. The staff team reflects the diverse nature of the local community, and they encourage parents to share their knowledge and skills too. This input enriches the pre-school, and benefits the children.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the group if they wish to. The staff value their input, and understand the importance of working in partnership with parents. They work together to get the best outcome for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- the child protection policy, so that new staff are made aware of it during their induction training, and so that it includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff
- the complaints policy, so that it includes Ofsted's address and telephone number
- parents' permission to take photographs of the children, so that it is in written

form.

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
14	Request written permission from parents to take children's photographs.
14	Ensure that new staff are made aware of the child protection policy during their induction, and that the policy includes the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.
14	Ensure that the complaints procedure includes Ofsted's address and telephone number.

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.