



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY234194

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	26/03/2004
Inspector Name	Jane Plested

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Maryland Pre-School
Setting Address	Parish centre Glebe Way Amersham Buckinghamshire HP6 5ND

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of St Leonards Church
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	St Leonards Church
Address	Glebe Way Amersham Buckinghamshire HP6 5ND

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

Maryland Pre-School has been open for over 30 years. It operates from St Leonard's Church Hall in Chesham Bois. The premises comprise the main hall, a first floor room, the kitchen and toilets. There is an enclosed outside area for children's play. The pre-school has a Christian ethos.

There are currently 45 children on the roll. This includes 10 funded 3 year olds and 13 funded 4 year olds. The setting currently is not supporting any children who speak English as an additional language or who have designated special needs.

The pre-school is open five days a week from 09:00 until 12:00 during term times only and extra lunchtime sessions are offered on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until 13:00. The children attend for a variety of sessions.

There are 13 staff who work with the children. One staff member holds an early years qualification to level 3 and another 2 hold a level 2 qualification. Four staff are working towards relevant early years qualifications at level 2 or 3.

The pre-school is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA). The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Maryland Pre-School provides satisfactory care for children. Staff are developing their qualifications and knowledge. The setting provides a warm and welcoming environment where children can play and enjoy themselves and parents feel at ease. Children have free access to the ample toys and equipment. Staff provide children with regular opportunities to use the outside play area, which is well resourced with play equipment.

Staff have an understanding of safety issues but daily checks do not always identify all risks to children. Areas for promoting the children's good health have been addressed effectively. Drinks and snacks promote a healthy diet for the children. Procedures for sharing information about specific dietary needs are good. The staff are confident about their role in the protection of children, but there is no procedure in place for the management of an allegation of abuse made against a member of staff.

The pre-school plan their daily activities in advance and have a clear routine that is known by the children and staff. Whole group activities are well led and are enjoyed. Staff are deployed well, most of the time. The setting places a high priority on settling children and the parents value this. Children are confident in their relationships with adults and are well occupied and happy. Staff have an understanding of behaviour management, but some opportunities to help children understand why their behaviour is poor are missed.

There is a good partnership with parents and carers. They feel welcome in the setting and consider staff are approachable. Parents are happy with the care provided, value the staff and recognise that children's individual needs are identified. The pre-school's policies and procedures are not all well known by all staff or always freely available to parents. Not all required records and consents are kept and some lack the necessary detail.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Children are interested and absorbed in their play. They freely choose from a wide range of activities suitable for all age groups. Whole group activities such as circle times, music sessions and stories are well led and are enjoyed by both staff and children.
- Staff encourage children to practise good personal hygiene, for example, washing their hands before snack time and by encouraging children to use tissues to wipe their noses. They promote healthy eating well. The snacks offered are healthy and nutritious, for example, on the day of inspection apple, cheese and savoury crackers are offered. The children have access to drinks at all times.
- Individual needs of children are recognised and supported well by staff. Concerns are identified, and staff work with parents to ensure children are able to enjoy their time at the pre-school, and are supported appropriately.
- The setting has some effective systems for developing partnerships with parents. They are sent regular newsletters that detail events and a notice board provides an additional area for information, for example, staff photographs, relevant certificates and details of minutes of meetings. A number of parents spoken to highlighted the setting's successful procedures in settling children well.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, so that accurate records of attendance are in place and include children's times of arrival and departure, and show when staff and visitors are on the premises

- organisation, so that staff are deployed effectively at all times and there are systematic procedures for staff induction
- safety, so that more attention is paid to the temperature of radiators ensuring these do not pose a risk and electrical sockets are made safe
- records, so that written parental permission is in place to seek any necessary emergency advice or treatment and there are clear instructions on the administration of medication
- behaviour management, so that an explanation is given to children when they behave poorly
- procedures and documentation, so there is procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff and ensure the setting's policies and procedures are known by all staff and made available to parents.

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
14	Ensure accurate records of staff working and visitors to the premises are always kept.	29/03/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure staff are deployed effectively at all times and make sure there are clear staff induction procedures.
6	Make sure that radiators do not pose a danger to children and ensure electric sockets are covered.
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and ensure there are clear instructions on the dose of

	medicines to be administered.
13	Develop a procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff and ensure the setting's policies and procedures are known by all staff and made available to parents.

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.