



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 141823

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 13/09/2004
Inspector Name Sylvia June Crawford

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Castlethorpe Pre-School
Setting Address The Village Hall
North Street, Castlethorpe
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK19 7EW

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Castlethorpe Pre-School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Castlethorpe Pre-School
Address C/O Angela Forman
46 Thrupp Close, Castlethorpe
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK19 7PL

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

Castlethorpe Pre-school has been registered for over 25 years. It is based in Castlethorpe Village Hall, Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes and serves the local community.

There are currently 14 children from 2 to under 5 years on roll. This includes 7 three-year-olds who are in receipt of funding for nursery education. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting is not currently supporting any children with special needs or children who speak English as an additional language.

The group is open Monday to Thursday during school term time. Sessions are from 09.30 until 12.00 each day.

There are three members of staff who work with the children. The group also has one relief member of staff and two volunteers. The person in charge is working towards a level 3 early years qualification. The majority of other staff have early years qualifications or are working towards them. All staff have first aid qualifications.

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

How good is the Day Care?

Castlethorpe Pre-school provides good quality care for children. The premises are well laid out and staff have made an attractive environment that is bright and welcoming for children and adults. The staff are encouraged to attend and value training. Their roles are well defined and they work well as a team. There are effective procedures in place to ensure the staff have a consistent approach to their work. The group have a good range of well maintained toys and play equipment; children are able to access them easily.

The staff have a good understanding of safety issues and conduct regular risk assessments. They ensure that children are aware of potential dangers. The group is effective in promoting the children's good health and take steps to protect children from infection. Snack time is a social occasion and the snacks promote healthy eating. Most staff have a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues, but parents are not aware of the roles and responsibilities of the group. Staff have a

good awareness of equal opportunities and are able to help children appreciate the wider world, but the range of resources that reflect our diverse society are limited.

Staff make sure that all children have the opportunity to take part in the activities. They interact well with the children throughout the provision, actively listening and promoting learning. Children enjoy interesting and stimulating activities that are well planned. Staff are skilful in managing children's behaviour and use praise and encouragement appropriately.

The group maintain good relationships with parents and carers. They exchange information, verbally and in written form, about children's achievements and news of the group. There are effective policies and procedures in place, although some lack the necessary detail. Documentation is well organised and securely stored. The committee has a good understanding of the National Standards and of their responsibilities.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group were asked to develop an action plan setting out how staff training and qualification requirements would be met. This action has been achieved within the timescale set.

What is being done well?

- Staff spend time talking and actively playing with the children, extending their language and development. They join in children's games when this is appropriate. Staff and children enjoy each others company and the children are happy and settled.
- Staff have made the group a colourful and child friendly environment. The toys, play equipment and materials are attractively presented. The walls are decorated with posters and examples of the children's art work. The group is an inviting and comfortable place where children feel at home.
- Staff set appropriate boundaries for behaviour. Children understand what is expected of them and respond well to the praise and encouragement given by staff.
- Children's safety is a high priority and staff help children to understand about dangers. The premises are secure and staff are aware of who enters and leaves the group.

What needs to be improved?

- child protection, to ensure that parents are clear about the role and responsibilities of the provision with regard to child protection issues and that pre-existing injuries are clearly recorded
- recording, so that times of arrival and departure of children are recorded
- policies, so that a written lost child policy is in place and the complaints policy

details how parents may make a complaint to Ofsted

- resources, to ensure that toys and play materials provide images of, and help children learn about, the wider world.

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
13	Ensure that parents are aware of the roles and responsibilities of the group with regard to child protection and that pre-existing injuries are clearly recorded and countersigned.

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.