



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY266992

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	12/07/2004
Inspector Name	Gyatri Rupal

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Harwood Hill Pre-School
Setting Address	Harwood Close Welwyn Garden City HERTS AL8 7AG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Harwood Hill Pre-School
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Harwood Hill Pre-School
Address	Harwood Close Welwyn Garden City HERTS AL8 7AG

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

Harwood Hill Pre-School opened in 1993. It operates from the nursery class of Harwood Hill School in Welwyn Garden City and serves the local community. One large room and an outside fenced play area is used. The pre-school opens three days a week ; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, during school term time. Sessions are from 13:00 until 15:10.

There are currently nine children from 3 to 4 years on the roll. This includes eight funded 3 years olds. There were five children and three staff members present during the inspection. At present there is no child with special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

Three staff work with the children. All staff have suitable early years qualifications. The setting receives support from a teacher and from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Harwood Pre-School provides good care for children. The pre-school provides a safe, stimulating and caring environment which the children enjoy attending. The space and play resources are effectively organised to provide a variety of activities and play opportunities for children. The staff show knowledge and understanding of Early learning Goals.

The staff take positive steps to promote safety and are conscious of their responsibility to keep children safe. They generally encourage children to practice good hygiene procedures within their daily routine. The risk assessments help minimise any risk to children of injury on the site and a system is in place to ensure children are collected by a responsible adult. Children's individual needs are identified and met very well.

The activities are well planned for each session and provide opportunities for children to expand in all areas of their developmental needs. There are many opportunities for children to talk about their experiences throughout the session and quality of interaction between staff and children is excellent. Staff praise effort, achievement and appropriate behaviour. The children are confident, friendly and well occupied with their play all the time.

The pre-school enjoys a good partnership with the parents, due to friendly staff forming positive relationships with the parents. The staff often chat informally on a daily basis with the parents about their child and provide written information about the child's progress at the end of the final term. Additional information is given in a booklet, notice board, and there are also regular newsletters. Most of the policies and procedures are well documented and well implemented by the staff and children. The Ofsted's questionnaire indicates the parents appreciate this provision.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staff question effectively and encourage children to think. They explain clearly, introduce new ideas and information and give children plenty of time to express their thoughts.
- The Pre-School provides a good range of learning resources and play equipment which help children to develop in all areas of learning, meet each child's individual needs and promote their self-esteem. All play resources are easily accessible by the children. The children are occupied in play opportunities that are fun, interesting and provide challenge.
- The pre-school children make good use of the large play room. Staff ensure the area is used to its full potential and children are confident and secure in their surroundings. A good variety of different activities are set-up, where children can explore and learn to use language to describe and communicate their thinking.
- Children are supported by staff who provide praise and encouragement throughout the session. Children were observed trying new skills with appropriate support from the staff in the group. This helped the children to feel confident and secure whilst in the small group.
- Each session includes work in small groups which ensure that children have plenty of individual attention but there are also ample opportunities for children to work independently, or to work together on their own projects without adult direction.

What needs to be improved?

- promoting good hygiene procedures regarding hand washing
- child protection procedure

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
7	Make sure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing.
13	Ensure the child protection procedure for the playgroup includes procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

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.