



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 134435

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	14/09/2004
Inspector Name	Gillian Little

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Ducklington Pre-School
Setting Address	Village Hall Ducklington Witney Oxfordshire OX29 7YH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Address	ADDRESS NOT SUPPLIED U/A

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

Ducklington Pre-School has been in operation for approximately 30 years. It is currently located in the village Sports and Social Club on a temporary basis. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 24 children from two to five years on roll including funded three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The group opens five mornings a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:00 until 11:45.

Four part-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level three or equivalent. One member of staff is currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a development worker from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The pre-school provides good quality care for children. There are effective procedures in place for employing and checking staff. There are appropriate numbers of qualified staff and they have regular opportunities for on-going training. The current temporary premises is appropriately maintained and provides adequate facilities for the pre-school. There is an appropriate range of safe and clean toys and resources but these need to be more freely available to the children. There are detailed policies in place which are carried out effectively. All the required paperwork is in place as well as an excellent operational plan detailing how the setting meets the National Standards.

The staff ensure that children are safe at all times but the pre-school needs to take action on a small number of issues identified in their risk assessment. The premises are clean and staff help the children to learn about health and hygiene. The pre-school provides children with regular snacks and drinks which are healthy and nutritious. There are satisfactory procedures in place to deal with child protection concerns. Staff are aware that they would benefit from updating their knowledge in this area.

The pre-school offers an appropriate range of activities across all learning areas.

Staff know children well and are able to meet their individual needs. Staff spend their time playing with and talking to the children which helps to develop good relationships. The pre-school promotes equal opportunities for staff and children and has systems in place to support children with special needs. Staff use suitable methods to deal with difficult behaviour. They recognise and praise positive behaviour.

The pre-school develops good partnerships with parents who are happy with the care it provides.

What has improved since the last inspection?

This section is not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The pre-school is well-organised. There are high adult to child ratios and all staff are either qualified to NVQ Level 3 or are working towards this level. There is a monitoring system in place to support staff and they have regular opportunities to attend additional training. The staff work well as a team and are able to support each other effectively. There are regular staff meetings and committee meetings. The staff and committee liaise effectively. As a result the pre-school runs smoothly and the children benefit from the well-organised and effective procedures in place.
- The staff are very caring and interact well with the children. They maintain a settled and relaxed environment where children feel secure. They are sensitive to children's individual needs and give them lots of reassurance and encouragement. The staff spend their time talking to and playing with the children which supports them as they develop and practise skills in a variety of learning areas.
- The staff help the children to develop an understanding of behavioural rules. They help children to manage their own feelings and to respect those of others. They encourage positive skills such as taking turns and sharing. They reward the children with regular praise. The staff act as good role models and maintain a calm atmosphere. As a result the children are settled and are developing a sense of respect for themselves and for those around them.
- The pre-school develops good relationships with parents. The staff are available to talk to parents at the beginning and end of sessions and they give parents appropriate feedback on their children's progress. The pre-school keeps parents informed of general information through regular newsletters and has good information available for new parents. As a result parents are pleased with the care provided for their children and feel that they are kept well-informed.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The pre-school has devised an excellent operational plan which has been updated to take account of the current temporary premises. This plan details: how the

pre-school is managed and organised; policies and procedures; use of staffing and space and provides good evidence of how the group meets the National Standards. The plan is put into practice effectively and is easily accessible within the group (Standard 2).

What needs to be improved?

- accessibility and variety of resources for children
- some aspects of safety (smoke detectors, guards for heaters, electrical testing)
- staff's knowledge and understanding of 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
6	Take steps to address issues identified in the risk assessment.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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.