



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 141892

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	25/05/2004
Inspector Name	Stella Grace Dykes

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Woolstone Pre-school Playgroup
Setting Address	Woolstone Community Centre Mill Lane, Woolstone Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK15 0AJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Woolstone Pre-school
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Woolstone Pre-school
Address	Woolstone Community Centre Mill Lane, Woolstone Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK15 0AJ

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

Woolstone Pre-School has been running for a number of years. It's current registration dates from 1997. The group operates from a community building in a well-established residential area. The pre-school serves the local area.

There are currently 34 children from 2 to 4 years on roll. This includes 15 funded three and four-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Some of the children have special needs.

The group opens five days a week during school term times. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, sessions are from 9:30 until 12:00. On Tuesday and Thursday, they are from 9:30 until 13:15. Morning sessions are open to children from 2 to 4 years old, with a limited number of places for children under the age of 3 years. Afternoon sessions run on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 13:30 until 14:50. These sessions are for children aged from 18 months to under 3 years.

Five permanent staff work with the children. Four workers have early years qualifications. Two staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP), and from the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PSLA).

How good is the Day Care?

Woolstone Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children. Staff roles are well defined, and day-to-day organisation is good. The staff hold relevant qualifications for caring for children over two years but none have currently undertaken specific training for children under two years. 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 them.

The pre-school makes the safety and wellbeing of the children their first concern. The staff take steps to promote the children's health, 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 provide interesting and exciting activities for the children to choose from. They know the children well, and so can make sure that their individual needs are

met. Staff are skilful at managing children's behaviour. They provide good role models, and behaviour is generally good.

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. The necessary records, policies and procedures are in place. However, some of the policies do not reflect the pre-school's procedures, or do not reflect best practice.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The staff plan and provide a broad range of activities for the children to choose from. There is an effective balance between the more structured, adult led activities, and the kinds of child-led play that allows children to explore, investigate, and make decisions. The staff spend time playing with the children, talking with them, and listening carefully to what they have to say. The children are happy and settled, and enjoy their time in the group.
- The pre-school makes safety a high priority. Staff make sure that the areas that the children use are safe for them, and that they are properly supervised. They carry out regular fire drills, so that both adults and children are familiar with the procedure. There are good routines in place for when the children arrive and leave. Staff make sure that the children can enjoy their play in a secure and safe environment.
- The pre-school provides a range of healthy and nutritious snacks for the children. The staff make sure that they know about children's dietary needs, and their parents' preferences; there are systems in place to make sure that the children only have what is suitable for them. Staff sit with the children, and snack time is a sociable occasion. Children learn about eating well, and enjoy sharing the time with their friends.
- There is a high level of parental involvement in the pre-school. It is managed by a volunteer committee of parents, and all parents are welcome to be actively involved in the group if they wish to. There are good systems in place to keep parents well informed about the pre-school, and about their children's progress. Staff and committee understand the importance of working in partnership with parents to get the best outcome for the children.

What needs to be improved?

- recruitment procedures for appointing new staff, so that they conform to the pre-school's policy
- the uncollected child policy, so that it reflects the pre-school's practice, and the fire drill record, so that it includes the time taken and any difficulties

experienced

- the complaints policy, so that it names Ofsted as the regulator, and includes Ofsted's address and telephone number
- policies relating to child protection, so that they reflect best practice, and the record of incidents, so that they are signed by parents
- staff training, so that it is extended to cover children under 2 years.

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Develop and implement an action plan detailing how at least half of all childcare staff will receive training specifically for caring for children under the age of two years.
14	Ensure that all records policies and procedures are accurate and sufficiently detailed.

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.