



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 955551

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 30/01/2004
Inspector Name Christine Cutts

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Sparklers Child Care Playgroup
Setting Address Basildon Church of England Primary School
Upper Basildon
Reading
Berkshire
RG8 9NZ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Sparklers Child Care Playgroup 1097640

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Sparklers Child Care Playgroup
Address Basildon Primary school, Beckfords
Upper Basildon
Reading
Berkshire
RG8 8PD

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

Sparklers Pre-School opened in 2001 and is run by a voluntary management committee.

It operates from and uses indoor and outdoor facilities of the nursery room and school of Basildon Church of England Primary school.

The provision is located in a rural area of Berkshire and serves the local community.

The pre-school is registered for 24 children aged between 2 and 5 years and is open on a sessional basis during term times: Monday to Friday 11:45 to 15:15 term time only.

A staff team of two, work directly with the children and are led by an experienced supervisor, who holds the NNEB qualification, the other member of staff is currently undertaking the NVQ 3.

The pre-school welcomes children with special educational needs and children for whom English is an additional language.

The pre-school does not provide funded education for three and four year olds.

How good is the Day Care?

Sparklers Pre-school provides good quality care for children in a warm and welcoming environment.

The accommodation allows for a wide variety of activities and very good resources are made available for the children to choose from.

Qualified staff and management work well as a team to support the children's learning. All relevant documentation is in place to enable the pre-school to care for the children, although it lacks details in some areas.

Children's health and welfare are well promoted with staff encouraging good health routines. An effective risk assessment process is in place.

High staff ratios enable the staff to spend time getting to know the children and identify the individual needs of the children.

The pre-school has effective special needs and child protection systems in place. Children with special needs are well supported in the group. A good range of resources and planned activities promote children's understanding of others and provides positive images of the diversity in our society.

The children are supported and encouraged in their learning with a good range of planned and unplanned activities to meet the developmental needs of children, covering all areas of learning.

Staff promote equal opportunities well by monitoring children's individual needs and by ensuring that all activities and resources are made available to all children. Children's behaviour is generally good in a lively and busy atmosphere supported by staff who help the children understand the rules of the pre-school.

Parents support the pre-school and very positive comments received show that they are happy with the care given and the information on their children progress and care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The previous inspection was a registration inspection and did not highlight areas of improvement

What is being done well?

- A full induction and training programme for all staff is in place covering many of the requirements of the national standard: Special educational needs (SEN) codes of practice, child protection policies and procedures.
- Effective organisation and high staff levels allow the pre-school to offer a very wide range of well planned activities for the children to choose from.
- A very good range of resources are provided by the pre-school, which are very much enjoyed by the children who were active and involved in their play.
- Good use is made of the accommodation to offer children a warm and welcoming environment in which to play and learn and to offer children good quality experience of the out-side environment.
- Effective system in place for the identification, monitoring and support of children with special needs.
- Children are developing good independence skills well fostered by the pre-school.

What needs to be improved?

- Child protection policy to include procedures to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff, including informing Ofsted.
- Accident records to be signed by parents and information on parental wishes regarding first aid treatment to be made available to staff.

- An operational plan for the pre-school.

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
14	review child protection policy to include procedures to follow if an allegation is made against a member of staff, including informing Ofsted.
14	ensure all accident records are signed by parents and information on parental wishes regarding first aid treatment are made available to staff.
14	Develop an operational plan for the pre-school.

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.