



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 113450

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	19/05/2004
Inspector Name	Helen Penticost

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Country Mice Pre-School
Setting Address	Station Road Cowfold Horsham West Sussex RH13 8DA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Country Mice Pre-School 1000764
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Country Mice Pre-School
Address	Country Mice Station Road, Cowfold Horsham West Sussex RH13 8DA

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

Country Mice Pre School provides full day care for 33 children aged from 2 to 5 years. The facility operates from a self contained unit and is situated in the village of Cowfold close to Horsham. The building comprises of one large room with an office area, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The Pre school operates for five days per week running differing sessions dependant on age groups. The Pre school are eligible for funding and they cater for children with special needs. Some staff within the Nursery hold relevant childcare qualifications and experience with other staff currently undertaking training.

How good is the Day Care?

Country Mice Pre School provides good quality care for children. Some staff hold a suitable childcare qualification with one others working towards qualifying. The staff provide a warm, welcoming and friendly environment, making the children feel confident and secure. There are good daily routines in place. This is supported by ample toys, equipment and resources which are easily accessible to children. Most of the relevant policies and procedures are clear, concise and informative.

Good hygiene regimes are in place to ensure that children's health and well being are promoted. A sound awareness of health and safety issues is acknowledged by staff. The pre-school promote inclusion for all children and actively support those with special needs. The staff have a good understanding of Child Protection procedures.

The staff provide a programme of well planned activities for children. Staff readily give praise and encouragement to the children and have a good understanding of managing children's behaviour.

Staff ensure that parents are fully informed of their child's day. The parents are made aware of their child's development and progress with assessment records being shared bi annually.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the Pre-school agreed to ensure that each child is allocated to

a member of staff within a key worker system and to develop and review an operational plan. Both of these have been addressed and are now in place.

What is being done well?

- Effective displays of children's work seen throughout the nursery, creating a warm and welcoming environment for children, parents and staff.
- Good daily routines are in place, which offer a varied programme of stimulating, interesting and well planned activities to ensure that children's individual needs are met and that all areas of development are built upon.
- Effective use is made of the ample range of toys, equipment and resources. Children play enthusiastically with the toys which stimulates their imagination and encourages early learning.
- The staffing team have a positive approach when managing children's behaviour and the children respond well to their support, guidance and praise.
- A partnership approach is adopted to ensure that children are cared for according to parents wishes, which provides a consistent approach to the care of the children.

What needs to be improved?

- the complaints procedure to include the name and address of the regulator.

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.

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.