



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127632

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 08/12/2004  
Inspector Name Melissa Tickner

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name St Thomas Pre-School  
Setting Address St Thomas RC Primary School  
South Park  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1EH

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name St Thomas' Parish Pre School 235468

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Thomas' Parish Pre School  
Address 12 Granville Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 1ER

## 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

St. Thomas pre-school opened in 1984 and operates from the parish hall adjacent to St. Thomas RC primary school, in Sevenoaks, Kent. A maximum of 24 children may attend the pre-school at any one time. The pre-school is open each weekday from 09.00 to 11:45 and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday it opens from 12:45 - 15:15 for the older children. The group operates during school term times only. All children share access to a small-enclosed outdoor area and have use of the school playground.

There are currently 49 children aged from 3 to under 5 years on roll. Of these, 44 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local area. The pre-school supports children with special educational needs, and also supports children who speak English as an additional language.

The pre-school employs one full time member of staff and six part time staff. All seven staff are qualified.

The setting receives support from the St.Thomas' RC Primary School and from a Teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

### How good is the Day Care?

St. Thomas pre-school provides good standards of care.

A warm and welcoming environment is provided which is well decorated, organised and child friendly. Children have good access to room for all areas of play and move confidently and independently within the environment. All staff are well qualified and attendance at regular training is encouraged. Staff are very well deployed and high ratios are maintained.

The day is well organised to provide children with a very good range of activities. They are busy, involved and very well supported by staff. Excellent levels of care and interaction are offered and staff relate well to children. A very good range of toys, furniture and equipment is available which appears to be safe, stimulating and well organised to promote children's accessibility and independence.

All staff promote safety well and there are clear systems to ensure the security of the

premise. Risk assessments and regular safety checks are completed; as a result children are cared for in a safe, child-friendly environment. Good health and hygiene is promoted to a high standard by staff and encouraged with children. They regularly wash their hands before snack times and cookery activities. A very healthy range of snacks and drinks are provided such as porridge and milk or water.

There is a very good approach to equal opportunities issues and staff actively promote this. Staff are aware of and meet children's individual needs. Staff have a clear awareness of special needs issues and a positive approach. A consistent and positive approach to managing children's behaviour is adopted by all staff. Sharing and turn taking is encouraged and children know and understand the rules of the group. Staff regularly use praise and encourage good manners.

Staff have developed excellent systems for working in partnership with parents, and parents are happy with their children's care. Paperwork is clear, up to date and extremely well organised.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last inspection, the pre-school were set actions to ensure a lost child policy is implemented, that the written complaints procedure includes Ofsted details and that the fencing is secure. Staff have addressed all actions, policies and procedures are in place and Ofsted's contact details have been added to the parent notice board. The fencing has been made secure.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Children are involved in a very good range of activities. They are busy, involved and very well supported by staff. Excellent levels of care and interaction are offered and staff relate well to children. They are interested in what children do and offer them appropriate challenges and a very good range of activities to learn through their play, throughout the sessions. Children are absorbed and interested in their chosen activity and are happy and settled at the pre-school.
- A very healthy range of snacks are provided for children. They are often provided with hot snacks in the winter such as porridge or toast and also regularly eat fruit or food the children have made themselves. Staff are keen to promote and encourage healthy eating and provide nutritious and energy-giving food. Fresh drinking water is available for children to help themselves.
- Staff promote equal opportunities well. They meet children's needs extremely well and treat children as individuals. Differences and diversity are welcomed and valued and staff promote equality well. A good range of resources is available to promote the diversity of our society and children have enjoyed activities such as a 'cultural week' to help teach them about different cultures.
- Staff welcome children with special needs and the nominated Senco is knowledgeable and well trained in this area. There are clear systems in place

to work with children, their parents and professionals. The welfare and development of all children is promoted and all children are valued regardless of needs.

**An aspect of outstanding practice:**

Staff have an excellent approach to working in partnership with parents. They promote working with parents actively and have created several systems to do this. A parent representative system has been implemented where two or three parents are nominated each term to liaise between parents and staff to identify any areas they wish to see improved or addressed. Staff also recently held a parent forum to discuss any aspects that parents wish; and hope to offer this more regularly. For new parents there is an induction process for both the child and parent, to feel involved and get to know the group and staff before starting. Staff offer extremely close support and a very welcoming environment for parents. As a result of all these aspects parents are happy with the care received and feel involved in their children's care and education.

**What needs to be improved?**

- the child protection policy to ensure it includes the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.

**PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)**

There are no complaints to report.

**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
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13	Ensure the child protection policy includes the procedures to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff.
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## **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.*