



Office for Standards
in Education

COMBINED INSPECTION REPORT

URN 140993

DfES Number: 521834

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/11/2003
Inspector Name Mary Daniel

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Humpty's House Pre-School and Kool Kids After School Club
Setting Address Caretakers Bungalow
Southill School, Sycamore Road
Southill, Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9UF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Humpty's House Preschool & Kool Kids after School
Address Caretakers Bungalow, Southill School
Sycamore Road
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9UF

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality and standard of day care in accordance with the National Standards for Under Eights Day Care and Childminding; and that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

Information about the setting

Humpty's House Pre-School operates from a converted caretakers bungalow, situated in the grounds of Southill Primary School, near to the main town of Weymouth. This privately owned group also provide the Kool Kids After School and Holiday Club.

Children have use of two playrooms, a kitchen, toilets and an outside play area, and have access to the school grounds and playground. Children attend from all areas of Weymouth and the surrounding outskirts.

The pre-school is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 09:00 -12:30, and 12:30 - 15:00. On Thursdays it opens from 09:00 -12:30 and then has a parent and toddler group in the afternoon. The Kool Kids Club is open on Monday to Friday 15:00 - 18:00 term time, and 08:00 - 18:00 during the school holidays. There are currently nineteen children aged three years, and eleven children aged four years on role who are in receipt of government funding. Children can attend on a full time or part time basis. The group can cater for children with special needs and those who have English as a second language.

The Kool Kids Club is currently working towards the Kids Club Network, 'Aiming High' quality assurance scheme.

How good is the Day Care?

Humpty's House Pre-School & Kool Kids After School Holiday Club are offering satisfactory care for children. There is a happy, friendly environment where children & families are welcomed, and playrooms are bright, and inviting for children. The group is well organised with clear policies and procedures in place, although registration numbers are currently exceeded for a short overlap period this term. Staff are deployed effectively, maintaining clear, daily routines and are committed to continual improvement for the group.

There is a wide range of suitable play resources, covering all areas of play, which are stored well, and organised to allow efficient use. Children enjoy the varied and imaginative activities offered. Staff have a good understanding of children's individual needs and form good relationships with the children. All children are valued and their needs respected within the group, although there are few images reflecting diversity within the general play areas.

Older children attending the Kool Kids Club choose from a wide variety of games and activities, and form good relationships with staff and their peers. There are several outings arranged for the holiday club to appropriate venues such as Monkey World, or a skate park.

Overall health and safety procedures work well in practice, with a clear risk assessment plan in place, which will be extended to include monitoring the collection procedures for children attending the Kool Kids Club. Staff liaise with parents on suitable foods to provide for children to encourage awareness of healthy eating.

Staff maintain clear, consistent behaviour boundaries and support children well in their understanding of right and wrong. Good behaviour is promoted and children are co-operative and behave well. Good relationships are formed with parents and they are kept informed of provision offered to their children. Documentation is well organised and stored safely to allow efficient use in practice.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group were asked to action safety and documentation issues. These have been addressed through organising safer storage of cleaning materials, a cover is now provided for the 'digging' box in the outdoor play area, and relevant documentation for all named drivers, is maintained in order and kept on file.

What is being done well?

- Staff provide a caring reassuring approach, and create a happy, secure play environment. Children are content and settled within the group, and mix well with staff and their peers.
- There are interesting and exciting activities offered which motivate children to learn through play. Children become absorbed & involved in play activities.
- There is an excellent range of suitable play resources, which are well organised, clean, bright and inviting for children and are maintained in good condition.
- The behaviour strategies used are effective in practice. Children behave well & staff promote good behaviour through praise & encouragement.

What needs to be improved?

- the maintenance of correct registration numbers

- the risk assessment procedures to monitor the collection of Kool Kids Club children
- the use of available resources reflecting positive images of diversity within the play environment.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	Ensure correct registration numbers are maintained at all times.	17/11/2003

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

Std	Recommendation
5	Encourage children in their awareness of diversity, through developing provision of positive images within their general play environment.
6	Extend current risk assessment system, to include recording and monitoring of the collection procedures for the Kool Kids Club children.

INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

How effective is the nursery education?

The provision of the nursery education offered by Humpty's House pre-school is acceptable and of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals.

Overall the quality of teaching is very good. Staff question children regularly and encourage them to think for themselves. Staff have a good awareness and understanding of the areas of learning and promote these effectively through a well-planned and balanced range of activities. They have a good awareness of children's individual ages and stages of development and this is considered when working with children on individual levels and in group situations. Behaviour is well managed. Staff make good use of praise and positive reinforcement and children respond well to methods used. Staff act as positive role models.

Staff have reviewed their use of assessment to ensure that a new system which appears thorough and detailed is implemented to ensure that children are covering all areas of learning sufficiently. Snack time is not organised effectively enough to maximise learning opportunities for children.

Leadership and management is very good. Staff are well supported and work very well as a team. There are good systems in place to ensure the ongoing support and development of all staff. The manager is committed to improvements in the care and education of all children at the pre-school and is always looking at ways of further developing the provision offered.

Partnership with parents is very good. Staff have developed good systems to promote the partnership with parents. Parents are provided with a good range of information and are kept informed about their children's progress at the pre-school. Staff try to encourage parents to be involved with children's learning through regular discussions, displaying plans and offering suggestions through the newsletter on a regular basis.

What is being done well?

- Children are making very good progress in creative development. They are provided with a good range of activities and opportunities to develop imagination and communication, to explore colour, texture and shape, and to explore music and become familiar with musical instruments.
- Staff have a good awareness of individual children, their abilities, needs and ages and stages of development. Staff question children regularly and encourage them to think for themselves through frequent challenges. Staff have a good awareness and understanding of the areas of learning and promote these effectively.

- Leadership and management is very good and the Registered Person supports and encourages her staff very well. Staff feel well supported and work effectively as a team. There are good systems in place to ensure the ongoing support and development of all staff. The Registered Person is committed to improvements in the care and education of all children at the pre-school.

What needs to be improved?

- The availability of and opportunities for children to explore sounds and letters in everyday planned activities.
- Point for consideration: the organisation of snack time to ensure it offers children further opportunities to promote personal independence and mathematical challenges.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Staff have made very good progress in addressing the key issues from the last inspection in 2000.

The first issue relates to enhancing the programme for personal and social development by providing more opportunities for children to care for living things. This issue has been addressed well through planned activities such as regular visits from small pets. Children are now able to grow and care for various plants and herbs in 'the growing box' in the garden.

The second issue relates to improving the programme for knowledge and understanding of the world by encouraging children to develop confidence in using technology. Staff have addressed this issue well by providing children with a good range of technological resources. A computer is also available.

The third issue relates to developing the pre-school's private grounds in order to use the outdoor areas more effectively to widen the children's experiences across the six areas of learning. This was set as a key issue because at the time of the last inspection, the outdoor area was undergoing extensive improvement. The area now provides a safe enclosed and interesting outdoor play space for children, which they enjoy using.

SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Children are well behaved, they share and take turns and co-operate well as a group. They are developing good relationships with adults and other children in the pre-school. Children show care and concern for one another, and work well together as a group. Children are developing good self-confidence, contribute at group times, use their initiative and show good levels of concentration.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement: Generally Good

Children enjoy books and are confident to handle and use them well. Children are developing good mark making skills and a varied range of resources are provided to support this. Children communicate well with one another and staff and their spoken language is developing well. However there is limited evidence of sounds and letters being incorporated in to activities.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

Good emphasis is placed on the introduction of early mathematical skills into everyday activities and consequently, children show clear progress in this area. They are able to count confidently using numbers up to ten and carry out simple sums during games and when singing songs. Children are able to use appropriate words to describe shapes and to identify quantities. They enjoy solving simple problems within their play.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement: Very Good

Children show curiosity and interest as they explore, design and create models using a wide range of natural materials within their work. They are learning to compare the texture of different materials and to explore the world around them using magnets. They are learning about everyday technology through access to an interesting range of resources and show good levels of competence in using items such as a tape recorder.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement: Very Good

A good range of physical play equipment is available for use indoors and out to help children develop small and large motor movements. Children are developing good physical skills and are able to move with confidence. Equipment is used effectively to support children's physical development.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children have good opportunities to explore music and use musical instruments, and are developing confidence with rhymes and songs. They have good opportunities for imaginative play. They enjoy and become absorbed in imaginative play experiences, which are supported by staff where appropriate. There are good opportunities for children to explore colour, texture and shape through a good range of resources that are rotated regularly.

Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.

OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION

The provision is acceptable and is of high quality. Children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT

There are no significant weaknesses to report, but considerations should be given to improving the following:

- Develop and enhance the opportunities for children to explore sounds and letters in everyday planned activities.

The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.

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.