



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY216277

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/04/2003
Inspector Name Katharine Mary Baker

SETTING DETAILS

Setting Name First Steps Day Nursery
Setting Address 31 Church Street
Cambridge
Cambridgeshire
CB1 5JQ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name First Steps Day Nursery

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

First Steps Day Nursery opened in October 2001. It is privately owned. The provision operates from converted detached domestic premises consisting of 2 floors and 5 rooms. It is situated on the main road through the village of Great Wilbraham in Cambridgeshire. The nursery serves the local area. First Steps is registered to care for 28 children from 3 months until 8 years. There are currently 46 children from 7 months to 5 years on roll. This includes 6 funded three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery is able to accept children with special needs and it supports children who speak English as an additional language. The nursery opens all year round. Sessions are from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.. Twelve staff work with the children. All have early years qualifications and all staff have first aid, child protection and food hygiene certificates. Staff undertake additional training on a regular basis. The nursery receives support from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and are a member of the National Day Nurseries Association.

How good is the Day Care?

First Steps Day Nursery provides a good standard of care overall for children aged 0 - 5 years. The organisation of the day nursery is very good. Records and policies are all in place and staff are encouraged to use the policies as working documents. They are regularly updated. There is a strong staff team who work well together. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure staff have a consistent approach to their work. Staff meetings are held on a regular basis and there are good induction procedures for new staff. All staff have annual appraisals. Staff give high priority to ensuring children are safe both inside and outside the nursery. Children are well supervised and there is always the correct adult: child ratio. The day nursery is well equipped and children are able to select their own toys in free play sessions thus encouraging self confidence and initiative. However resources in the baby room could be improved. There is an effective key worker system which enables staff to establish consistent and good relationships with children and their parents. Staff give good attention to meeting children 's individual needs and children with special needs are fully included in activities. There is good partnership with parents and carers. They know what is going on through regular newsletters. The home contact diaries are used well for the under threes to share information. Some parents, though, would like a more formal mechanism to be kept informed of their child's progress.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to ensure that the designated member of staff for Child Protection had updated knowledge of ACPC procedures. This has been addressed by further training. Improvements have also been made to the nappy changing areas as requested.

What is being done well?

The staff show a high level of awareness of children 's individual needs. Children are treated sensitively with appropriate use of praise and encouragement.(Standard 2)
 The nursery has a warm, welcoming and homely atmosphere with children's work well displayed.(Standard 4) Planning and provision of activities for the 2 -5 age group is particularly good which promotes the children's progress.(Standard 3) The nursery is well equipped with good quality toys, materials and furniture.(Standard 5)
 The nursery has good induction procedures and a strong staff team who work well together. (Standard 2) There is a high level of safety awareness throughout the nursery ensuring that risks to children are minimal (Standard 6)

What needs to be improved?

the activities in the baby room to provide more sensory/creative exeriences (Standard 5) the methods for giving parents/carers feedback on their child's progress/behaviour.(Standard 12)

Outcome of the inspection

Good

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NEXT?**The Registered Person must take the following actions by the date shown**

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

Std	Recommendation
3	To improve opportunities for creative and sensory experiences in the baby room.
12	To implement a more formal mechanism to keep parents informed of their child's progress.

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.