



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 153471

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/05/2004
Inspector Name Dinah Round

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Three Bears Nursery
Setting Address Holt Road
Bovington
Wareham
Dorset
BH20 6LE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Three Bears Nursery 1055226

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Three Bears Nursery
Address Holt Road
Bovington
Wareham
Dorset
BH20 6LE

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

Three Bears Nursery opened in 1995 operating as a pre-school. It relocated to new premises in January 2004 and extended to offer nursery and out-of-school provision. It operates from a large purpose built building adjacent to Bovington First School. The premises provide separate rooms for the different age groups of children, a kitchen, toilet facilities and a large outdoor play area. The nursery serves the surrounding local areas, and many children come from the nearby army camp.

The group is registered to provide care for 63 children under eight, and there are currently 98 children on roll. This includes 16 funded three-year-olds and 13 funded-four-year olds. The group accommodates children with special needs and English as an additional language. Three staff members speak German and there are systems in place to support children who speak other languages.

The group operates from 8.00 to 18.00, for 48 weeks of the year and children attend for a variety of sessions. This includes a breakfast, after-school and holiday club for children aged up to 12 years.

There is a team of fifteen staff including the manager, plus additional bank staff. Nine of the staff hold an early years qualification, and another three are currently working towards a childcare qualification. There is an office manager who supports the staff in the running of the nursery. The group receives support from several other agencies such as Dorset Early Years Partnership, Dorset Community Action, Sure Start, Army Welfare and Traveller Liaison. They are also members of the National Day Nurseries Association.

How good is the Day Care?

Three Bears Nursery provides good quality care.

The premises provide a warm, welcoming environment for children, which is well organised to cater for the needs of the differing age groups. There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place to support the running of the nursery, with clear induction programmes for new staff. The new staff group is continuing to develop as a team, and high staff ratios of qualified staff means children are well supported in the group. Staff demonstrate a clear knowledge of child protection.

There are clear hygiene procedures within the nursery, which are generally well maintained and the routines in baby room ensures risks of infection are minimised. Staff demonstrate a good awareness of safety and regular systems are in place to monitor children's safety, however the does not include risk assessment of the outside play area which has some hazards.

Staff have good relationships with the children, they ensure all children are valued and included which means children are happy and settled. Children in the pre-school are involved and interested in the varied range of activities and play opportunities, however staff do not effectively maintain records of their progress. The holiday and after-school club provides a more flexible routine with children involved in making choices about their play. There is a wide range of good quality play equipment and resources which are well organised so easily accessible, and the toddlers enjoy being able to freely explore their environment. Behaviour management strategies are age appropriate, and children are clear of the expectations.

Partnership with parents is very good. Comprehensive information is shared with parents about the provision e.g. in a welcome booklet, and daily discussions ensures parents are kept well informed about their child.

Documentation is regularly updated and well maintained.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the group agreed to obtain a copy of the ACPC procedures. This has been achieved effectively, with staff attending a child protection course and receiving the updated information through the Dorset Early Years Partnership

What is being done well?

- Staff respond well to the children. They have a calm, caring approach which means children are settled and secure.
- There is an extensive selection of good quality toys and equipment. These are geared to the individual age groups, and organised effectively to enable children to freely access and make their own choices.
- There are clear systems in place to keep parents informed about the provision e.g. monthly newsletters, parents notice board. Informal daily discussions, plus written records for children under three years effectively share information with parents about their child's day.
- Staff have a clear knowledge of child protection issues. They are confident in following the child protection procedures to ensure children are safe.

What needs to be improved?

- the systems in place to record and monitor pre-school children's individual progress, to enable staff to plan the next stage in children's learning

- the use of outdoor prams through the baby's play area, to ensure potential hazards are minimised
- the outside play areas and updating of risk assessments, to ensure potential risks are minimised.

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
3	Put systems in place to record and monitor pre-school children's individual progress, to enable staff to plan the next stage in children's learning
6	Improve the outside play area and complete an updated risk assessment, to ensure potential risks are miminimised.

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.