



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 220035

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 09/10/2003
Inspector Name Jan Clarke-Potter

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Queen of Hearts Nursery School
Setting Address 122 Rockingham Road
Rockingham Road
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN16 9AG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Valerie Parker

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

Queen of Hearts Nursery School opened in 1990 and is located on the ground floor of a converted Victorian house situated in Kettering. The nursery serves local families as well as those from a wide surrounding area. It operates from eight rooms and two reception areas. The nursery is open from 08.00 to 17.30 hours from Monday to Friday all year, except bank holidays.

There are currently 152 children on roll although not all children attend every day; this includes forty-four funded three and four year olds. The setting currently supports children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

Eleven full-time and nine part-time staff work with the children. Three staff have a teaching qualification and 14 staff have NNEB/BTEC qualifications in nursery nursing or equivalent. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The nursery receives input from a mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. No other childcare service is provided on the premises.

The nursery has achieved "Investors In People" quality assurance status, and the "Heartbeat" award for healthy eating.

How good is the Day Care?

Queen of Hearts Day Nursery provides good quality care for children. There is a well-qualified and highly committed staff team in place. The high ratio of adults to children enables staff to give children lots of attention and support. Space and resources are arranged effectively and provide a warm and welcoming environment. There is a good range of toys and activities which offer stimulation and sufficient challenge to the children. Good organisation of documentation ensures that the provision is managed well and underpins the smooth running of the provision.

Staff ensure the physical environment is safe and secure. There are effective systems for welcoming children and registering them at the door. Safety is a high priority at the nursery and staff have a good understanding of child protection issues, although the current policy lacks detail with regard to local procedures. Staff take positive steps to promote health and hygiene and ensure that areas are kept very

clean. Meals and snacks are healthy and nutritious, and are provided at regular intervals throughout the day. There are effective systems for identifying children's individual special needs, and staff work with parents and other agencies to promote children's welfare and development.

The excellent range and quality of the activities has a very positive impact on the children's development and learning. Staff use their observations and assessments to identify learning priorities and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for the children. All children have access to appropriate toys, learning resources and equipment. Differences are acknowledged and valued through experiences that celebrate different cultures and festivals.

Staffs build warm and trusting relationships with the children and their parents. There are four parent evenings and regular meetings throughout the year, and there is regular exchange of information between staff and parents on arrival and departure.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- A knowledgeable and experienced staff work well as a team, and show commitment to their role. They recognise children as individuals and meet their differing needs well. The quality of their interactions significantly enhances all aspects of children's development.
- An exciting range of activities for each child in every area, enables children to be purposefully engaged. Some staff teach in specific areas, such as French and Dance, which are very popular and children are challenged to their full potential.
- A well-planned curriculum makes clear the learning objectives, and regular evaluations, help staff to plan the children's next stages of development.
- Staff are very experienced and proactive in ensuring children's individual special needs are met. They promote the welfare and development of the child by ensuring records are kept up to date and they work in partnership with parents and other relevant parties.
- Parents are kept well informed through policies and information displayed on the notice board and through regular exchange of information between staff and parents. All parent questionnaires returned are very positive.

What needs to be improved?

- the child protection policy, with regard to the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures and to include the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

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
13	ensure that the child protection procedure for the nursery complies with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures

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.