



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY254464

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/02/2004
Inspector Name Jennifer Anne Marsh

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Little Rascals
Setting Address 157 Station Road
Dunscroft
Doncaster
South Yorkshire
DN7 4JP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Fiona Victoria Straw

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

Little Rascals Day Nursery opened in 2003. It is one of two privately owned nurseries offering full and part time care. It operates from a converted single storey building within Dunscroft, a suburb of Doncaster. The children have access to two separate playrooms and sleep rooms, toilets and an enclosed outdoor area. The nursery serves the local area.

There are currently 43 children on roll. This includes funded places for three and four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The group is able to support children with special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 08:00 to 17:30.

Seven childcare staff and one support staff member are employed. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Mixed teaching methods are used, including Letter Land.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Rascals Day nursery provides good quality care for children.

Children are cared for in an attractive organised setting where staff provide a welcoming environment for children. The staff work well as a team and are committed to self evaluation and improvement of practice. Staff meet together regularly to plan activities and share information on children's progress. Staff appraisals inform planned access to appropriate training opportunities.

There is a good range of equipment for the care of babies and to support all children's learning and play. However, minor improvements such as increasing children's access to comfortable seating and multicultural equipment, on a daily basis, will enhance the care provided. Children are confident to explore different activities and to express their own ideas.

Clear policies and procedures are in place and implemented well. Staff observe and maintain good supervision of children and address all safety issues as they arise. There is effective management of children's behaviour, praise and encouragement are given freely. Good health and hygiene practice is promoted through daily activities and children are provided with healthy and nutritious meals.

There is a very effective partnership with parents where relevant information is exchanged through the well established key worker system. Information is shared on a daily basis with parents about their child's progress. Parents feel relaxed within the nursery environment and relate very well to staff.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The premises are clean and maintained well. The physical environment is welcoming, children's work is attractively displayed and playrooms have plenty of natural light, creating a child friendly environment.
- Meals are very well planned and prepared, they provide a varied and nutritious diet. Children look forward and enjoy their meals and their individual needs are met.
- Staff follow the good set of policies and procedures in place to ensure children are safe at all times, they keep the premises secure and only release children to known carers and are vigilant when identifying visitors. They deploy themselves well around the provision to maintain supervision.
- There is a strong emphasis on maintaining effective partnerships with parents. Parents are clearly happy with the care their child receives, they feel involved in the planning of activities and are fully informed of their child's progress.
- The key worker system is very effective, the system fulfils its requirements in co-ordinating information about the children's needs and development. The system provides a vital link between parents and maintains continuity of care.

What needs to be improved?

- access to comfortable seating for staff and children within the playroom and access to multi-cultural provision on a daily basis
- the staff's regard to the Code of Practice for the identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

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
5	Ensure that sufficient furniture is available within the playroom to meet the need of children's relaxation.
10	Increase staff's awareness to the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

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.