



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 131749

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/01/2005
Inspector Name Kate Cooper

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Willow Children's Centre
Setting Address Holbrooke Court
23 Tufnell Park Road
London
N7 0PG

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name London Borough of Islington

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name London Borough of Islington
Address Laycock Street
London
N1 1TH

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

Willow Early Years Centre, opened in the late sixties. It operates in Islington from a purpose built single storey building, with 3 group rooms. The centre serves the local and wider area.

There are currently 52 children from 7 months to 5 years on roll for the full day care. This includes 3 funded three year olds. All 4 year olds have free places. Children attend for a variety of sessions. Five children have special needs and the centre supports 21 children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week, all year round. Sessions are from 8 until 17.30 hours.

Three part time and 9 full time staff work with the children. All have early year qualifications except one. No staff are at present on training programmes.

How good is the Day Care?

The Willow Early Years Centre provides good quality care for children.

The centre offers a warm, welcoming and stimulating, child centred environment for children, but is in need of renovation. Staff work well together as a team and develop good relationships with the children. This ensures children are happy, settled and gain the maximum from their time at the centre. The centre benefits from strong leadership and a commitment to the training of staff.

The Centre gives a high priority to health and safety issues, all policies and procedures are in place and followed by staff except one. Meals provided by the centre are well cooked and nutritious.

The centre plans daily activities well. Staff ensure that children are involved in a range of exciting and stimulating activities, both inside and out. They are well planned but flexible to meet the individual needs of the children.

The nursery has a good relationship with parents. They are made to feel very welcome in the nursery and respected as the primary carers of their children. All relevant paperwork is in position, except one that needs to be extended.

What has improved since the last inspection?

All actions set at the last inspection have been met. This greatly supports the care and safety of the children.

What is being done well?

- The centre benefits from a strong leader, who gives high priority to the support and training of staff. This ensures staff remain very enthusiastic, confident and committed to their work with the children and their parents. There is a strong commitment by the head to the planning for the development of the centre and the writing of clear policies and procedures,
- The centre plans a stimulating range and balance of activities which helps children to make progress in all areas of their development. Staff observe and record what children do, to help them plan the next step in children play and learning. The children are able to make decisions, explore and investigate with the resources on offer, both inside and out. Staff do not miss an opportunity to support and extend children's learning.
- The centre gives a high priority to the personal, social and emotional development of the children. Staff value the children and have high expectations of them. They listen and talk to children and respond with praise and encouragement. They use a range of successful methods to manage behaviour.
- The centre's partnership with parents is good, and a strength of the provision. There is well written information for parents on all aspects of the centre's work with children and their parents. Staff discuss children progress on a regular basis both formally and informally. The head and staff are very pro-active with parents, to ensure they feel part of a partnership in the education and care of their children.

What needs to be improved?

- the written procedure to ensure milk feeding bottles are labelled with child's name
- the safety and hygiene standard of the floor covering and decorative order of the inside of the premises
- the written statement that provides details to parents if they have a complaint needs to be extended to include contact details of Ofsted

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

not applicable

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
4	Ensure that the floor covering and decorative order of the centre is maintained to ensure the safe and hygienic care of the children.
6	Devise and implement a procedure to ensure milk feeding bottles are labelled with child's name.
12	The written statement that provides details to parents if they have a complaint needs to be extended to include contact details of Ofsted.

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.