



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 100609

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/11/2004
Inspector Name Chris Banks

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Highgate Children's Centre
Setting Address Highgate Studios,
53-57 Highgate Road
London
NW5 1TL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited 02328679

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited
Address 2 Crown Court
Crown Way
Rushden
Northamptonshire
NN10 6BS

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

Highgate Children's Centre for children aged between 3 months and 5 years was registered in 2000. It is part of the Bright Horizons (Family Solutions) network of private nurseries.

It operates from a purpose built, ground floor unit of a commercial building in the Highgate area of NW5. The Nursery mostly serves families living or working in the local area. Children have access to a range of facilities that includes a small outdoor play space. Parliament Hill Fields and Hampstead Heath are within walking distance.

The Nursery operates five days per week from 08:00 hours until 18:30 hours and is open 50 weeks a year. Children attend a variety of sessions.

There are currently 50 children on roll. This includes 7 children aged 3 years who are in receipt of a Nursery Education Grant. The setting supports children who speak English as an additional language.

Ten members of staff work with the children. Eight staff including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications and 3 also hold valid First Aid certificates.

How good is the Day Care?

Highgate Children's Centre provides a good standard of care for children.

Premises are bright, secure and well maintained with very good standards of hygiene throughout. Baby rooms and play areas are comfortable and organised in a creative, accessible way. A separate art room is particularly well designed and provides children with good opportunities for creative play.

There are comprehensive and clearly documented policies and procedures relating to all aspects of children's health and safety. These are effectively put into practice by staff who place high priority on protecting the welfare of children they care for. Extensive information about children's individual needs is gathered and recorded with good systems in place to ensure information is effectively shared with staff.

The suitably qualified staff team work co operatively to provide children with warm and consistent care. They interact well with children and key workers foster caring and supportive relationships between all children. Children are happily settled and familiar with the mostly well planned daily routines.

Children's learning and development is well supported. Staff facilitate a balanced, stimulating range of activities for all children and provide good opportunities for older children to play independently and in groups. There is a diverse, well cared for selection of early learning toys and equipment made easily accessible to children.

There is a strong commitment to working in an open and professional way with parents. They are provided with extremely comprehensive written information about all aspects of the service and are positively encouraged to share their views with staff about the quality of childcare. On a day to day basis they are warmly welcomed and good record keeping systems helps ensure they are kept well informed about their child's progress on a regular basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- Parents are positively encouraged to share as much information as possible about their child's individual needs at the beginning of a placement. They are seen as key partners in helping staff develop routines that are sensitive to the needs of each child.
- Information about all aspects of the service is contained in a well produced 36 page guide for parents. In order to help ensure parents are clearly informed about Nursery policies, procedures, and practice they are asked to confirm in writing that they have read it.
- The separate art room is a well organised space where children can freely explore their creativity. The layout is stimulating and child friendly with an extensive range of materials for children to experiment with.

What needs to be improved?

- The written child protection procedures to ensure the role of Ofsted is included.

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
13	Ensure that the role of Ofsted is included in the child protection 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.