



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY268691

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/01/2005
Inspector Name Elizabeth Miles Wallis

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Kidsunlimited Nurseries
Setting Address Royal Lancaster Infirmary
Ashton Road
Lancaster
Lancashire
LA1 4RP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Kidsunlimited Limited 2102771

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Kidsunlimited Limited
Address Westhead
10 West Street
Alderley Edge
Cheshire
SK9 7EG

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

Kidsunlimited Day Nursery was registered in 2003. It is a privately run nursery owned and registered to a national company who specialise in nursery provision. It is located within the grounds of Lancaster Royal Infirmary. The nursery serves families in the local community although National Health Service employees have priority when a waiting list is operating. Children are cared for in three age related group areas within the building. Regular outdoor play is provided in an enclosed, outdoor area accessed from the group rooms.

There are at present a total of 94 children on the register who attend a variety of sessions each week. Currently no children with special educational needs or who speak English as a second language attend. The nursery provides funded nursery education places for 13 children.

The Nursery is open Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 19:00 all year round except for bank holidays.

A qualified Manager and Deputy are employed as well as 16 child care staff of whom 12 hold appropriate child care qualifications. The nursery staff receive support from the specialist Kidsunlimited national teams.

How good is the Day Care?

Kidsunlimited Nursery at Lancaster provides good care for children. All aspects of the nursery are effectively organised. The staff team are well qualified, experienced and receive a good level of ongoing training. The Manager and Deputy receive support and advice from the higher management, administration and specialist teams within the Kidsunlimited Company. The premises are spacious and well laid out. The operational plan is comprehensive and detailed and all documentation is thoroughly maintained and stored in an accessible, confidential manner.

Good health and safety procedures are applied and the premises are clean and hygienic. Children are provided with nutritious meals and snacks and individual dietary needs are well met. An effective key worker system is in place ensuring that each child's progress and welfare is well monitored. A policy is in place regarding the positive inclusion of children with special needs. There are clear procedures understood and applied by staff regarding the protection of vulnerable children.

A stimulating activity programme is provided that meets the play and learning needs of all ages. Activities are resourced with a range of good quality equipment ensuring that children enjoy variety and choice. Activities are well planned and delivered. The daily programme includes time for relaxation and outdoor play. Staff act as positive role models giving praise and reward to promote good behaviour. Good resources and activities that teach children to value individual and cultural differences are provided to the preschool children but are less available to the younger age range.

Parents are made welcome and have open access to the nursery. They are supplied with good information regarding policies, activities and their children's development and progress. Care is taken to ensure that children are cared for in accordance with parent's wishes and that their views are sought and valued.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The nursery has a high standard of organisation. The policies and procedures are linked to the Kidsunlimited in-house 'model nursery' quality assurance system. The effective induction programme ensures that staff are knowledgeable about the policies and apply the procedures with care.
- The nursery is equipped with a wide range of good quality furnishings and resources with a strong emphasis on the provision of natural materials to enhance the quality of the environment. Rooms are thoughtfully laid out and subdivided into smaller activity areas equipped with a good selection of play resources.
- The range and quality of childcare and activities is good. Each group room has its own programme and child care system which meets the needs of the respective age range. Babies are, for example, provided with the opportunity to explore and discover through heuristic play and a simple signing system is used with them to aid communication and reduce frustration. Care of all under 3's is directly linked to the 'Birth to Three Matters' programme. Pre-school children are offered a wide range of stimulating play and learning opportunities. In addition to conventional areas of learning they are also offered fun activities including gardening, soccer skills, cookery and an introduction to French conversation.
- There is thorough attention to health and safety issues. Clear hygiene procedures are, for example, displayed in the kitchen and nappy changing areas and detailed fire evacuation procedures are rehearsed. Provision of an evacuation cot for babies and evacuation resource bags increases the children's welfare should the building need to be temporarily vacated.
- The nursery works closely with parents providing open access and good information. Parents of babies and toddlers receive daily written details regarding their child's activities and routine. More detailed reports are also

provided for all parents on a regular basis.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

All children at the nursery are offered simple Yoga through a scheme called Karma kids. This enhances the physical health of the children whilst also developing their ability to wind down and relax. All staff receive training in order to deliver these activities adapting them to the needs of each age range. For example the yoga activity for the preschool children is typically linked to a story with children participating and acting out the story by using yoga positions to represent characters such as animals. (Standard 3).

What needs to be improved?

- the range of images and activities in the toddler and baby rooms that encourage children to value and respect cultural diversity.

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.)

There are no complaints to report since the 1st April 2004.

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
9	Increase the range of images and activities in the toddler and baby rooms that encourage children to value and respect cultural diversity.

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.