



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY285066

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 24/11/2004
Inspector Name Ann Law

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Creche Day Care, Full Day Care
Setting Name Sure Start Links 4 Children's Centre
Setting Address Thornton Lodge Nursery School
11 Dryclough Road
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD4 5HX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Thornton Lodge Nursery School

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Thornton Lodge Nursery School
Address 128a Yews Hill Road
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD1 3SP

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

Sure Start Links 4 Children's Centre, incorporating Thornton Lodge Nursery School, is part of a neighbourhood nursery initiative managed by a multi agency committee. It opened in 2004 and operates from the Sure Start building in the grounds of Crosland Moor Junior School and Dryclough Infants School in Crosland Moor, near Huddersfield. A maximum of 52 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00 for 49 weeks of the year. All children share access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 25 children aged from three months to under 5 years on roll. Of these, eight children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery employs 13 staff, all of whom, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

How good is the Day Care?

Sure Start Links 4 Children's Centre, incorporating Thornton Lodge Nursery School, provides good quality care for children. The setting is clean, attractively decorated with children's artwork and promotes a welcoming atmosphere. Space in each room is used effectively with clearly defined areas for play. Children independently access a very good range of toys and resources, which reflect the cultural backgrounds of the children attending the nursery. The comprehensive range of policies and procedures underpin the high standards of care and the majority of the required documentation is in place.

Staff have a good awareness of keeping children safe on the premises and most risk assessments are in place. Children's hygiene routines are promoted well and staff act as good role models. Parents are made aware of the group's duty to protect children. However, the written statement for child protection does not contain sufficient detail. Staff have an excellent awareness of children's individual needs and liaise with parents and external agencies to ensure these are met.

A well planned routine and good organisation of staff, in an effective key worker system, results in children's developmental needs being met. However, children's records of achievements are not fully effective in highlighting their next steps for

play, learning and development. Staff work within designated areas, providing children with familiarity and continuity and interactions with the children are of high quality. Staff consistently use positive methods to manage children's behaviour.

The nursery has a very good relationship with parents and a variety of methods, including a parent pack and regular newsletters are successfully used to provide detailed information regarding the provision. Parents are appreciative of the care their children receive.

What has improved since the last inspection?

not applicable

What is being done well?

- The setting provides a rich learning environment where children are encouraged to be independent. They confidently access all areas of the provision and particularly enjoy the freedom of the outdoors to explore, investigate and discover the natural world in a real context.
- There are a very good range of high quality toys and resources which are available and accessible for the children. They are attractively presented to aid self-selection and promote decision making skills. Children have appropriate challenge and are highly motivated in the setting displaying good levels of involvement in activities.
- Children's individuality is promoted well throughout the setting. Diversity is welcomed and children's individual needs are well catered for, especially in relation to age, diet, ability and culture.
- Staff are good role models for children's behaviour. Their calm and positive approach facilitates good behaviour and effective strategies are in place to deal with any unacceptable behaviour. This results in children who are very happy, confident and well behaved.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The baby room offers an exceptional sensory experience for the under two's. The environment is visually stimulating and very tactile. Children are encouraged to explore and discover materials such as spaghetti, fabric and water, developing all of their senses in a truly experiential environment. (Standard 4)

What needs to be improved?

- systems of observing and recording children's progress
- risk assessments with particular regard to the outdoor play area
- child protection to ensure the correct contact numbers are held
- documentation relating to medication and accidents.

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.

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
3	Improve the systems to observe and record what children do and use the observations to plan the next steps for the children's play, learning and development.
13	Review the child protection statement to ensure the correct contact numbers are held and obtain the government guidance 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'.
14	Improve the documentation for accidents to ensure all elements are always recorded and for medication to ensure parent's acknowledgement is gained for any medication administered.
6	Review risk assessments with particular regard to the outdoor play area.

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.