



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127435

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 25/09/2003
Inspector Name Cilla Rachel Mullane

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Park Avenue Nursery
Setting Address Victoria Park
Deal
Kent
CT14 9AH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Stephanie Elizabeth McGahan

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

Park Avenue Day Nursery opened in 1993. The provision was extended in 1997 to include an Out of School Club. The Nursery and Out of School Club operate from a converted clinic in the seaside town of Deal. There are four rooms that children use for work, rest and play, toilets, and an outside area. The provision serves the local area and surrounding towns.

The Nursery and Out of School Club are registered to provide care and education to sixty children aged between one and seven years old. There are currently forty nine children on roll in the nursery, and forty six in the after school club. This includes four funded four-year-old children, and twelve funded three-year-old children. Children attend a variety of sessions each week. The nursery has experience of working with children with special needs and with children who speak English as a second language.

Park Avenue opens five days each week, fifty two weeks of the year. Sessions last from 08.30 to 18:00 in the nursery and holiday playscheme, and 15:30 to 18:00 in the out of school club.

Five full time, four part time, and four emergency staff work with the children. Eight staff have early years qualifications and two are currently undertaking training.

The nursery receives support from a Pre-school Learning Alliance fieldworker and a teacher from the Early Years Development Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Park Avenue Nursery and Out of School Club provides satisfactory care for children aged from two to under eight years.

The qualified and experienced staff group continue to update their childcare knowledge by attending short courses. Most documentation required for the smooth running of the nursery and out of school club (OOSC) is kept effectively, although some is missing or incomplete, and parents and staff are not always aware of policies and procedures. The premises are spacious, with designated areas for different activities, but more effective use could be made of the space, and procedures for cleaning toys and equipment are inadequate.

There are some concerns about safety within the nursery and OOSC, and staff are

currently implementing a system of risk assessments. Some health and hygiene procedures are ineffective, resulting in staff's inconsistent and poor practice. Mealtimes are pleasant occasions, with good interaction between staff and children, and the quality and variety of snacks provided in both the nursery and OOSC is excellent. Staff do not have up to date knowledge of child protection issues and procedures, but training is planned for the near future.

Children attending the nursery and OOSC are generally confident and happy. The older children have a full range of relaxing activities after school. The nursery children take part in an adequate range of activities to meet their developmental needs. A trained SENCO has strategies in place for identifying children's special needs. Staff value and praise good behaviour.

Although policies and procedures are available, procedures are not in place to ensure that parents see them. Children's records are shared with parents at informative parents' evenings, but infrequently in between meetings. Parents enter the provision confidently, and are generally happy with the service provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The last inspection was a transitional inspection with no actions, so this section is not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff show a commitment to developing their knowledge of childcare issues by attending regular short courses and workshops.
- The Out of School Club provides an interesting and stimulating balance of activities, allowing for active play, and relaxing activities.
- Children enter the Nursery and Out of School Club happily and confidently, staff interacted positively with the children, and praised and encouraged them.
- Mealtimes are relaxed social occasions.
- Snacks in the After School Club and Nursery are of good quality.
- Strategies for managing behaviour in the Nursery and After School Club are positive and age appropriate, and good behaviour is valued and encouraged.

What needs to be improved?

- the availability and accuracy of required records;
- the extent to which the operational plan works in practice, and is shared with staff and parents;
- the use made of the theme room and the quiet/book area, so that children benefit from these resources.

- the procedures to check toys and equipment, so that children do not have access to broken and incomplete resources;
- the safety of the premises, so that children are not exposed to hazards;
- the procedures for toileting, nappy changing, food storage, and cleaning, to ensure that practices are hygienic;
- the frequency with which drinks are offered to the children;
- systems for sharing information with parents, so that they are aware of the nursery's policies and procedures, and receive frequent updates on their children's progress;
- staff's knowledge of child protection procedures;
- the attendance register, so that it includes times of attendance of children, staff or visitors;
- the availability of the complaints procedure to parents;
- staff's personnel forms, so that records are kept for all staff;
- the children's registration forms, so that all required information is kept.

Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
6	Continue to develop a system of risk assessments in order to identify and eliminate hazards in the environment which adversely affect the safety of the children.	26/12/2003
7	Devise and implement policies and procedures for health and hygiene practices, which are understood and used consistently by the staff.	26/12/2003
14	Ensure that all records relating to day care/childminding activities are complete, and readily	26/12/2003

	accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times.	
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The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that the operational plan reflects the policies and procedures that underpin the running of the nursery and after school club, and staff and parents are familiar with its contents.
5	Devise and implement procedures for checking safety and suitability of toys and equipment.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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.