



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 127521

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 19/11/2003
Inspector Name Cilla Rachel Mullane

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name School House Nursery
Setting Address School Road
Sandwich
Kent
CT13 9HT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of School House Nursery

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name School House Nursery
Address School Road
Sandwich
Kent
CT13 9HT

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

School House Nursery opened in 1992. It operates from a converted schoolhouse on the grounds of Sandwich Infant School. The nursery has access to four rooms, toilets, a kitchen and an outside area. The nursery serves the local area and surrounding towns.

The nursery is registered to provide 20 places for children aged 2 to 7 years. There are currently 56 children on roll. This includes 6 funded 4 year-olds and 13 funded 3 year-olds.

Children attend a variety of sessions each week. Staff have experience working with children with special needs, and support children who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week, for fifty weeks a year, from 08:00 to 18:00.

There are two part time and four full time staff, five have early years qualifications. The nursery receives support from a Pre-school Learning Alliance Development worker and a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

School House Nursery provides satisfactory care for children aged two to under eight years.

All staff have childcare qualifications, work well as a team, and intend to update childcare training by attending short courses. Space is organized to meet the children's needs, and staff are appropriately deployed, but resources available for the children to self-select are limited. The environment is warm and welcoming to children and parents. Basic policies, procedures and records are mostly kept efficiently.

Premises are safe and clean, and formal risk assessments, checklists are in place. Mealtimes are relaxed occasions, although staff do not help to promote children's independence. Staff do not have up to date knowledge of child protection issues, and intend to undertake training.

Children are happy to enter the nursery and approach staff confidently. The quality

of staff: child interaction is good, with adults working closely with the children, supporting and extending their play and learning. Children are happy and stimulated, with planned activities covering all areas of development, and opportunities for small group work. Individual children's needs are generally met, and all children are included. Staff are currently developing their knowledge of working with children with special needs. There is an appropriate equal opportunities policy, but not all staff are clear about how this is implemented. There are resources and activities, which reflect the diversity of society. Staff manage behaviour positively and consistently, resulting in good behaviour in the nursery.

There is a parents' committee supporting the staff. Staff work in partnership with parents, and parents are satisfied with the standard of care and the informal exchange of information about their children's development and activities. Parents are given written information about the curriculum, and the provision, but are not routinely shown their children's developmental records.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed that the fire officer would be consulted about displays in the entrance hall. He recommended that they should be moved, this has been done.

It was also agreed that a procedure would be written for action to be taken if allegations were made against a member of staff. This has also been done effectively.

What is being done well?

- The staff group is very well qualified - all have appropriate childcare qualifications.
- A thorough operational plan has been prepared (although some of the policies are not working in practice) showing a good understanding of the National Standards. There is good deployment of staff around the premises - all have opportunities to use each room, and full use is made of all the rooms. Staff stay with the same group of children as they progress through the nursery, helping to ensure continuity of care
- Planning of activities is carried out around the early learning goals, and observations are used to inform planning. Relationships between staff and children are positive. Staff work at the same level as the children, and value and praise their achievements. Children are happy and confident.
- There is a warm and welcoming environment - children and parents enter the premises confidently. The rooms in the nursery are well organized - arranged around different areas of development. Children have opportunities to use all the rooms, and the outside area on a daily basis.
- There is an excellent variety of safe, suitable toys and equipment, which is used to provide a balanced range of activities, that promote learning in all areas.

- There is a thorough system of risk assessments on the premises, and safety checklists for the equipment, so hazards in the environment are identified and eliminated. Staff knew about fire safety procedures, and their individual roles in a fire drill.
- Good quality food provided at teatime, and there are planned menus.
- There is a record of working with other agencies to meet the needs of children with special needs. A member of staff is undergoing the SENCO training.
- Appropriate strategies were seen for managing children's behaviour, positive staff: child interaction, lots of praise and encouragement.
- The committee take their role seriously, and take an active part in the running of the nursery.

What needs to be improved?

- staff's attendance on short training courses, so that they have opportunities to update childcare knowledge
- staff appraisals, so that training needs are formally identified
- staff induction, so that new staff are given support and guidance
- staff cover for sickness and emergencies
- ways of promoting children's independence, so that children have opportunities to act independently
- planning of activities for the children who attend after school - there are currently no written plans
- opportunities for children to self select toys and equipment
- the procedure for checking sleeping children, so that they are checked regularly and often
- the availability of drinks to the children
- mealtime routines, so that there are opportunities to develop children's independence, show manners by example, and to make conversation
- behaviour management procedures, so that there is a designated member of staff
- the prospectus, which is out of date
- information given to parents, so that they know who their child's keyworker is, what developmental records are kept, and are given the opportunity to see the operational plan.
- staff's knowledge of child protection issues.
- documentation, to include times of staff's and children's arrivals and departures, reference to Ofsted in the complaints procedure and a second parent's signature in the medication record.

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 should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection**

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure that new staff receive sufficient induction and supervision to enable them to fully carry out their responsibilities, and that staff have opportunities to regularly update knowledge of childcare issues.
3	Consider ways of increasing children's opportunities to self select toys and equipment, and ways of helping them to develop independence.
11	Ensure that there is a named staff member who is responsible for behaviour management issues.
12	Provide opportunities for parents to receive regular information on their children's progress, and to see the operational plan.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.
14	Ensure that written records contain all the required information.

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.