



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 228969

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 31/01/2005
Inspector Name Teresa Marie Taylor

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Creche Day Care
Setting Name St. Thomas Centre Nursey
Setting Address The St. Thomas Centre, Bell Barn Road
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 2AF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Fran Munby

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

St Thomas Early Excellence Centre is a multi - agency, multi purpose facility providing a number of Childcare and Education. A Nursery, Crèche, a stay and play facility and Nursery School form part of these services. St Thomas Centre Nursery was registered in 2000 and operates from a large building that used to be a secondary school. A maximum of 103 children may attend the Nursery and, 43 may attend the Crèche, at any one time. The setting is open 50 weeks of the year from 08:00hrs to 18:00hrs for nursery children and the crèche is open from 09:30hrs to 12:00hrs Monday to Friday and, Friday pm from 13:00hrs to 15:00hrs.

There are currently 91 children under 5 years on roll in the nursery. There are no funded children as these are all designated nursery school children. The crèche numbers fluctuate depending on the courses on offer at the centre. The setting supports a number of children with special needs and those for whom English is an additional language.

The setting employs 21 staff in the nursery. Twenty of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications and the remaining member of staff is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

St Thomas Early Excellence centre provides good care for children. The setting is warm, welcoming and child centred. Children are happy, settled and well occupied.

The rooms are large and airy with children's work and photographs displayed on the walls. Staff have organised toys and equipment well and the rooms are warm and inviting. There is a very good selection of toys and equipment and, planning ensures children have access to a wide range of play opportunities. The outside areas are well equipped and well used. Children are free to play outside at any time during the day. Staff encourage children to make decisions and support any decisions made. Staff are actively involved with children's play with the majority of activities being child initiated and child led. Children are regularly taken out of the building into the local area enabling staff to extend children's experiences. Planning is undertaken and all plans are displayed.

Health and safety issues are well attended to and good hygiene practices were observed throughout the nursery. However the appropriate nappy changing facility

for crèche children must be used. Children over three choose their own lunch and cutlery but younger children are not given a choice. Lunchtime is a social occasion and staff are aware of all children's individual needs and parents requests regarding diet. Children's behaviour is good. Staff provide good role models. They are calm, gentle and consistent in their approach.

There are good relationships with parents and their comments on the setting included; staff are professional, well trained, friendly and understand children's individual needs. The procedures for staff following any allegations being made should be easily accessible, all other documentation is up to date and stored confidentially. There are notice boards throughout the nursery containing information for parents and, individual portfolios for all children in each room. Parents are welcome at any time.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The following actions were raised at the last inspection; ensure that, the registers include arrival and departure times of children and staff. appropriate nappy change facilities for children using the crèche, vehicle documents for named drivers are forwarded to the regional centre, parents sign to acknowledge all medicines administered, parental permission is requested to seek emergency medical treatment and, the accident record is signed by parents. All of these actions have been met and evidence seen at the inspection.

What is being done well?

- The setting provides a warm, welcoming and child centred environment where children are happy and settled. Parents are welcome at any time and there are several notice boards containing information for them.
- There is a wide range of toys and equipment and staff planning ensures a wide range of play opportunities. Regular external activities take place to extend children's experiences.
- Children's behaviour is good. Staff provide good role models. They are gentle, caring and consistent in their approach to the children.
- Parents expressed their satisfaction with the setting via the parental questionnaires. Comments included; staff are professional, well trained, friendly, caring and understand children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the use of the nappy change facility for children attending the crèche
- the under threes ability to choose their meal content and cutlery
- the accessibility of the procedures to be followed if allegations are made about staff.

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
4	Ensure the appropriate nappy changing facilities are used for children attending the crèche.
8	Ensure children under three are able to choose meal content and have appropriate cutlery.
13	Ensure that the procedures, to be followed in the event of allegations being made about staff, are included on the child protection policy are accessible to all staff and parents.

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.