



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 134471

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/03/2004
Inspector Name Dorothy Jean Little

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care, Out of School Day Care, Creche Day Care
Setting Name Carterton Community College Play Unit
Setting Address Carterton Community College
Upavon Way
Carterton
Oxfordshire
OX18 1BU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Magdalen Davies

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

Carterton Community College Play Unit was registered in 1978. It operates from a porta cabin sited in the grounds of the college. The play unit is self-contained with a large fenced off outdoor play area. The play unit serves the local area. The unit runs all year round and offers a range of day care facilities. Groups include a Breakfast Club (4+ years), Playgroup (2-5 years), Crèche (0-5 years), After School Club (4+ years) and a play scheme and full day care for children aged 4+ during the holidays. All groups run in the one building at various times throughout the day. The unit has one large room divided off into different areas for play. Children are taken to 3 local primary schools following the Breakfast Club. There are currently 75 children on the roll, of these 30 attend the pre-school. In the pre-school there are no children with special needs attending or any who have English as a second language. At least half of the staff has a recognised childcare qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Carterton Community college Play Unit provides satisfactory care for children. The premises are used for a wide range of childcare activities on this occasion the pre-school was inspected. Pre-School staff care for the children adequately, however, there are very few written policies and procedures. There is not a clear well written operational plan. The room is well laid out with a messy play area, physical play area, tabletop and floor activities and quiet areas. The children move around the activities confidently.

Staff take the children's safety seriously, they are encouraged to become aware of aspects of their own safety. Accidents are recorded but they are not confidential. The children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practices by the easy access to the small wash hand basins, toilets, and their own hand towels. Staff have an awareness of child protection procedures but are not clear how to record concerns.

The consistent staff team are actively involved in listening and interacting with the children, they help the children to feel secure and settled. The wide range of interesting, stimulating activities well laid out encourages the children to develop in all areas of their development. Children are valued and made to feel welcome within the play unit, children are developing positive self esteem and feel secure in the pre-school. Daily activities do not reflect diversity in our society. Staff praise and encourage children; children share and take turns.

The staff has a good relationship with parents. Parents are encouraged to go into the room when dropping their children off, staff are available to discuss informally their children's progress. Parents can stay while their children settle and develop self confidence. Parents receive information about their children's activities and are encouraged to participate in the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The consistent staff team provides children with opportunities to develop close relationships, which help them to feel secure and settled. Staff are actively involved with the children, listening to them when they arrived and encouraging them to join in the activities.
- The room is effectively organised by a successful arrangements of activities, including a messy play area, quieter computer area, large physical equipment and tabletop and floor activities. Displays of the children's work on the walls are used to explain opposites including old and young with photos of themselves as very small babies and how they are now. The children are interested and occupied.
- Children are encouraged to have good hygiene practices by washing their hands using the easily reached wash basins and using soap and their own hand towels.
- Staff use praise, encouragement, negotiation and explanation to help children develop good social skills and learn right from wrong.
- Parents receive information about their children's activities and are encouraged to participate by helping in the group and providing resources.

What needs to be improved?

- the operational plan; in order that all staff and parents get an overview of the procedures and can understand how the facility operates including, procedures to follow in the case of accidents, incidents and administration of medicines
- accident book; implement a confidential procedure for recording accidents
- sufficient activities to reflect diversity in our society
- staffs knowledge of procedures regarding recording practice for the protection of children.

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	Provide a clear operational plan to ensure staff can follow correct procedures in caring for the children.
6	Implement a confidential procedure for recording accidents.
13	Develop a recording procedure to be followed for the protection of children.

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.