



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 508948

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/01/2005
Inspector Name Bridget Richardson

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Kittens Day Nursery and Big Cats Out of School Clubs
Setting Address Ecat House, Cross Levels Way
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Sussex Downs College - Childrens Centre

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Sussex Downs College - Childrens Centre
Address Ecat House
Cross Levels Way
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UF

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

Kittens Day Nursery and Big Cats Out of School Club is one of two nurseries, and one of three out of school facilities run by Sussex Downs College. It opened in 1989 and operates from two buildings on the Sussex Downs College Campus site in Eastbourne and has access to the college facilities in the school holidays. A maximum of 30 children may attend the nursery, and 40 attend the out of school club at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:15 to 17:30 for 51 weeks of the year. The out of school club is open after school Mondays to Thursdays 15:00 to 18:30 and Fridays until 18:00. In school holidays the out of school club is open 08:15 to 17:30 and on a Saturday between 09:30 to 16:30.

There are currently 90 children aged 2 to 8 years on roll. Of these 36 attend the nursery of whom 23 children receive funding for nursery education and 54 attend the out of school club. Children come from a wide catchment area to attend the setting as most of their parents work or are students at the college. The nursery and out of school facility currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and for whom English is an additional language.

The nursery employs 8 staff. All of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications.

The out of school facility employs 8 staff. Six of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualification and one staff member is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

The standard and quality of care at Kittens Day Nursery and Big Cats Out of School Club is satisfactory. There is an operational plan in place which guides the staff team in their daily practice. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of health and hygiene and promote these positively. Generally there are good safety measures in place throughout the settings to ensure children are well cared for, however fire drills are not held regularly. The nursery and out of school club are in the main well organised, however the adult to child ratio at lunch times require improvement to ensure the correct ratios are maintained.

Staff have a good knowledge of each child's needs and interests. They form warm, caring relationships with the children who are happy and confident to try new

experiences. Staff plan and provide an interesting range of worthwhile topics and activities, helping children make good progress in all areas of development. The settings organises the space and resources well, and children enjoy choosing from the wide range of activities provided.

There is an effective partnership with parents and good links are forged between the settings and home. They are provided with useful information. The regular exchange of information on children's progress ensures that their individual needs are well met. Generally all the relevant paperwork is in place in both the nursery and out of school club, however both settings need to ensure that the attendance register is accurately maintained; Ofsted are informed of committee changes and the relevant documentation required on committee members is kept.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff utilise the space well in the settings to meet children's individual needs.
- Staff interact positively with children extending their knowledge and encouraging them to explore and investigate.
- Children are relaxed and familiar in the setting. They settle quickly and play co-operatively with each other.
- Wide range of play equipment accessible to children which is rotated on a regular basis.
- Staff work closely with parents to offer consistency of care to each child attending.

What needs to be improved?

- the adult to child ratio at lunch times
- the completion and submission of all the relevant paperwork by the committee
- the attendance register is maintained accurately
- the fire drills practiced.

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

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
2	Ensure Ofsted is informed of all changes to members of the committee and that all documentation required is submitted accordingly.	11/01/2005
2	Ensure at lunch times the adult to child ratio is maintained at all times.	05/01/2005

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
2	Maintain an accurate attendance register at all times.
6	Ensure regular fire drills are practiced to ensure all staff and children have the opportunity to complete.

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.