



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY286528

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 15/11/2004  
Inspector Name Carol Mansell

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Dolly Mixtures  
Setting Address Great Ashby Community Centre  
Whitehorse Lane , Great Ashby  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 6HW

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs June Kathleen Bailey and Mrs Janice Lorraine Gant

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Dolly Mixtures Pre-School  
Address 524 Grace Way  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 5AX

## 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

Dolly Mixtures Pre-School opened in 2004 and operates from a large room in a Community Centre. It is situated in Stevenage in Hertfordshire. A maximum of 20 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The pre-school is open three days a week from 09:15 to 11:45 during school term time. From November 2004 the pre-school will introduce a fourth morning session.

There are currently 21 children aged from 2 to under 5 years on roll. Of these 13 children receive funding for nursery education. Children come from the local catchment area. The pre-school currently supports a number of children with special educational needs, and also supports children who speak English as an additional language. An additional member of staff is employed to offer support to the children with special needs. At present there is no outside safe play area for the pre-school to use.

The Pre-School employs 4 staff 2 of the staff, including the manager hold appropriate early years qualifications. 2 staff are working towards a qualification. The pre- school have input from the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

### How good is the Day Care?

The Pre - School provides satisfactory care for children. The staff work well together and have clear routines that help the children feel secure. Space and play resources are used creatively. A wide variety of toys and equipment are in place.

Staff are sensitive to the needs of individual children and have a good understanding of issues relating to special needs. There is a written system to identify and minimise risks, which is generally effective. Staff have a sensible approach in promoting good hygiene routines for the children in their care. Although an aspect of their personal hygiene procedures needs to be reassessed. Staff show a clear awareness of vetting procedures and their duty of care to the children. However, some additional child protection documentation needs to be obtained.

Staff set out the room prior to the children's arrival. They provide the children with some purposeful, stimulating and interesting activities for most areas of development. However, limitations in some areas need to be addressed. The behaviour boundaries in place are clearly understood by the children and consistently implemented by the staff.

Parents are provided with useful information both verbally and written. Staff that are friendly and approachable give regular feedback to the parents. Most of the documentation is in place and well maintained. However, some recording procedures need to be reviewed.

There were 10 children present during this inspection.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable as this is the first inspection since registration.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff work together as a team and are enthusiastic in their approach to the children and have an effective key worker system in place. They ensure the space is used to its full potential and the children are confident and secure in their surroundings. There is a wide selection of resources including those reflecting positive images of culture, gender, disability and ethnicity that allow the children to extend their learning outside their day-to-day experiences.
- There are effective procedures for identifying potential hazards in the pre-school and staff ensure that the children's safety and security is given high priority. Risk assessments are reviewed and completed regularly. An additional staff member is in place to provide extra support to parents and children where a special need is identified. Play routines are sensitively adapted. All staff show a clear understanding of Child Protection issues and procedures.
- Children were observed trying new skills using scissors and clothes pegs with appropriate support from the adults in the group. This helped the children to feel confident and secure whilst in the group. Although the group does not have an outdoor area to use, children have access to safe physical activities within the space available. The children are happy, busy and confident with activities provided by the staff. They are learning respect and to value those around them and their environment. Children behave well and respond positively to direction from staff. Praise and encouragement is given and staff have a consistent and positive approach when dealing with unacceptable behaviour.
- Staff have fostered positive relationships with parents who are welcomed into the pre-school and are relaxed and at ease. Staff are friendly and approachable they share information on a regular basis on the notice board, verbally, written and in their documentation. Positive comments recorded in parental questionnaires.

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- the accessibility of resources and equipment to encourage children's independence skills

- the procedures for hand washing after snack time
- the recording procedures for staff and children's attendances which includes details of arrival and departure times
- the evacuation drill records comply with fire safety requirements
- the staffs knowledge and understanding of up to date Child Protection documentation.

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

Std	Recommendation
2	Ensure there is a system in place for registering children and staff attendance on a daily basis, showing times of arrival and departure.
3	Ensure that sufficient and suitable equipment and resources are available to enable the children to develop their independence skills (this refers to a lack of access to resources by the children).
7	Review procedures for hygiene to ensure equipment is clean at all times (this refers to hand washing after eating soft fruits).
13	Ensure relevant up to date Child Protection literature is obtained and understood by all staff members.

## **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.*