



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY257600

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	07/09/2004
Inspector Name	Janice Rizvi

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care, Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Little Acorns Nursery
Setting Address	Oak Farm, Drayton Lane Drayton Bassett Tamworth Staffordshire B78 3EF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Margaret Linda Kinson
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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

Little Acorns Nursery and Out of School Club opened in 2003. It operates from four playrooms within newly converted farm buildings, with a separate self contained building for the Out of School club. The premises are situated on the outskirts of Tamworth and Sutton Coldfield. The setting serves the local and surrounding areas.

The nursery has not yet reached it's full compliment. There are currently 38 children from 0-8 years on roll. This includes three funded three-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs. The group opens five days a week all year round. The sessions for the nursery are from 07:30 until 18:00 and the out of school care is from 15:00 until 18:00.

Seven full time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have an early years qualification to level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Little Acorns Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. The groups are generally well organised. Space and resources are used imaginatively to create a stimulating, orderly and supportive environment for children. However, the adult to child ratio is not maintained throughout all periods of the day. There is a wide range of policies and procedures which is included in the staff induction programme, but there is insufficient time available for staff to familiarise themselves with these, to gain the necessary in depth knowledge and understanding of how they relate to the setting and the National Standards. Most documentation is maintained and in place.

Staff provide a warm, friendly and welcoming environment for children and parents, they are sensitive to the needs of children new to the provision providing supportive care and reassurance. Wide ranges of practical activities that extend children's learning are freely available, but there is no system of recording what children do to inform the planning of individual children's development. Play opportunities for very young babies are imaginative and varied, but some methods of feeding babies and use of equipment are inappropriate. There is a good range of toys and materials to promote positive images. Opportunities exist for children to explore and investigate their play areas, children respond to staff, are confident and happy.

Generally staff are proactive to promote health and safety within the setting, children are encouraged to maintain their personal hygiene throughout the day. Children's dietary needs are met with full details available for staff, menus are displayed with healthy freshly cooked meals provided. Staff set clear boundaries in managing children's behaviour, children are well behaved and secure.

The staff have a good relationship with parents. Both written and verbal information is shared and exchanged on a daily basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- The staff provide a warm and friendly environment where children feel secure and happy in their care. Staff are sympathetic towards new children and offer support and reassurance, helping children to settle quickly.
- Staff offer a good range of activities and play opportunities that children enjoy, children are able to choose from a wide range of toys and equipment.
- The premises are secure and very well maintained.
- There is a good relationship with the parents. Parents are given comprehensive information each day about their child's daily routine.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements to ensure adult to child ratio's are maintained, specifically during staff break times
- the staff's knowledge and understanding of the policies and procedures and National Standards
- the implementation of an effective staff induction programme
- the implementation of a system of observing and recording what children do to inform planning
- the arrangements to ensure the health and safety of young children when using play equipment, including the use of baby walkers
- the procedures to ensure babies are held when being bottle fed
- the arrangements to ensure prior written parental consent is obtained for children to be transported and taken on outings.

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 adult to child ratio's are maintained at all times and ensure staff have sufficient time to undertake all the tasks involved in the induction programme.	21/09/2004

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

Std	Recommendation
3	Implement a system of observing and recording what children do and use this to plan the next steps of children's play and learning.
6	Undertake a risk assessment of baby walkers for indoor and outdoor use and obtain written parental consent for outings and transportation of children.
8	Ensure babies are held appropriately during bottle feeding.

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.