



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY287010

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/03/2005
Inspector Name Mary Pratty

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name The Den Club, St Mary & St Margarets School
Setting Address Southfield Avenue
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham
West Midlands
B36 9AX

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Pauline Barritt

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

The Den, Out of School Club, operates from St Mary and St Margaret's school in Castle Bromwich. The club has use of three play areas, plus ancillary facilities. There is also access to enclosed, outdoor play facilities.

There are currently 25 children aged 3 to 11 years on roll. Children may attend for a variety of sessions.

The club opens five days a week, during term time. Sessions are from 07.30 to 08.40 hrs and from 15.30 to 17.45 hrs. The club serves the children who attend the school.

There are two permanent staff, including the manager who has appropriate early years qualification at Level 3. The assistant is currently working towards an NVQ Level 3 in Play work. An additional volunteer worker is available on a flexible basis. The group receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Den Club provides good care for children. Staff provide a warm, relaxed, welcoming environment and space is well used to provide a variety of activities both inside and outside. Although display facilities are limited, due to the shared use of the premises, staff do endeavour to display some of the children's creative activities. Whilst the majority of documentation is available, staff now need to review and further develop policies and procedures in order to create ownership and to make sure that procedures take account of how the group has developed since registration. There is a good range, of well organised resources, which provide children with a variety of experiences.

Staff are aware of their responsibilities with regard to health and safety, however a system of risk assessment needs to be developed in order to make sure that all potential hazards are identified and minimised. Good attention is paid to security and staff are deployed effectively to ensure that children are well supervised. The premises and resources are maintained to a good standard of hygiene. Children are provided with a variety of interesting and nutritious snacks and good attention is paid to meeting dietary needs.

Staff have strong relationships with the children and they are aware of their individual needs and interests. The children are regularly consulted about their views and preferred activities; this results in children being well occupied and interested in the experiences provided. Children confirmed that they are very happy to attend, they enjoy the activities and the opportunity to socialise with their friends. Behaviour management strategies are realistic and developmentally appropriate and the children clearly understand expectations.

Parents are very satisfied with the quality of care. They particularly mentioned the approachability of staff, the broad range of activities and their children's reluctance to go home as they have such a good time at the club.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable, as this is the first inspection.

What is being done well?

- Staff take good account of the children's opinions when planning activities, setting boundaries and planning menus. Questionnaires are used to help staff get to know the children's views. This helps children feel valued and included in the running of their club.
- The club provides a relaxed, informal and sociable atmosphere where children can rest relax or play after a busy day at school. The children are confident in their use of the space, moving freely and with confidence, to participate in activities of their choice.
- Staff actively seek training in order to support their professional development, they work well together, providing well organised sessions.
- Staff provide children with a varied choice of menu, a wide variety of foods are available for both breakfast/ tea and the children are encouraged to try healthy options.
- Staff work in partnership with parents, any specific concerns or issues are discussed and strategies agreed in order to provide a consistent approach to care and behaviour management. The parents notice board is used to keep parents informed about menus, activities and other items of interest and staff are readily available to chat with parents as they collect their children.

What needs to be improved?

- safety with regard to developing effective risk assessment systems
- the documentation specifically to include; the procedures for child protection, children not collected and induction and more generally, to review and evaluate the current policies and procedures which inform the operational plan.

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
6	Develop a system of risk assessment.
14	Review and improve written policies and procedures to ensure that it is sufficient for the effective and safe management of the provision.

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.