



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY258381

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 07/05/2004
Inspector Name Linda Oliver

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Crocus Early Years Centre
Setting Address Great Cornard Upper School, Head Lane
Great Cornard
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 0JU

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Crocus Early Years Centre Limited 4146359

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Crocus Early Years Centre Limited
Address Newlands, Howe Lane
Hempstead
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB10 2NZ

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

Crocus Early Years Centre opened in September 2003. It operates from three main rooms in a purpose built ground floor building, on the site of the three schools in Great Cornard. The nursery serves the local area and the teaching staff of the schools.

There are currently 63 children aged from birth to 5 years on roll. This includes 2 funded 3 year olds and 12 funded 4 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The nursery supports children who have special needs and who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week all year round. Sessions are from 07:00 until 18:00.

There are 14 staff working with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. Three staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification, two of whom are on long term placements from the local college. The setting receives support from a teacher from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

The Crocus Early Years Centre provides good quality care for children aged from birth to five years.

The children are cared for by well qualified and experienced staff who provide a warm and welcoming environment. The nursery is well organised and the space is used creatively to ensure children have access to a wide range of good quality resources. Good staff deployment and high staff ratios ensure that children are well supported in their play and provide them with a secure and reassuring environment. All supporting paperwork is in place and presented to a very high standard.

Staff ensure that the children are safe and very well cared for. They have a very good awareness of health and safety issues. Children are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks and meals throughout the day, prepared by a qualified chef in the nursery kitchen. Staff's training in behaviour management and child protection, as well as for children with special needs, ensures that children receive individual care according to their needs.

Children benefit from a broad range of interesting and stimulating activities. Babies' needs are met effectively and staff build warm and caring relationships with them. Staff introduce many resources which give a positive image of our multi-cultural society. They are currently reviewing the provision of further resources to promote children's awareness of disability. Children are encouraged to become confident and independent. All children are included and their differences acknowledged and valued. Staff manage children's behaviour appropriately, giving them lots of praise and encouragement.

Management and staff have developed strong links with parents, who are made very welcome at the nursery. They are kept well informed about the setting and their children's progress through daily written and verbal communication. There are also regular newsletters, notice boards, opportunities to attend open days, a detailed prospectus and the web forum.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/A

What is being done well?

- The nursery has a forward thinking ethos and is continually developing and improving. The vision of the proprietors to offer good quality care and education, where children are happy and can play safely, is evident in the environment provided. Regular staff meetings, appraisals and policy reviews take place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the nursery provision.
- The environment and atmosphere of the nursery is very warm, welcoming and inviting to both the children and their parents. Staff are friendly, caring and committed to providing a secure learning environment for the children. They display children's work attractively and all activities are well planned and prepared. Staff plan in line with 'Birth To Three Matters' and the early learning goals, enabling children of all ages to make very good progress in all areas of their learning.
- The nursery rooms are well laid out allowing for many different types of play at the same time. Role play is especially well resourced with imaginative props, costumes and small world equipment to inspire and stimulate the children's imagination, e.g. staff in the pre-school room have established an excellent 'mini-beast laboratory' in the role play area with lots of appropriate resources, such as white coats, magnifying glasses, imitation mini-beasts, pipettes, tweezers and other safe scientific equipment, posters, charts, etc.
- The standard of educational provision is very good. Staff have an excellent knowledge of the Foundation Stage and how young children learn. They promote a child-centred approach, allowing children time to explore and investigate through a balance of self-chosen and guided activities.
- There is a very real partnership with parents and carers. This has a positive impact on the consistency of care for the individual children. Daily diaries promote two-way communication and are instrumental in helping parents to

be actively involved in their children's care and education.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

The organisation of all aspects of the nursery is exceptional. The sessions are planned in detail to cover all areas of the children's development and learning, yet retain spontaneity and include plenty of free choice for children. All documentation is to an extremely high standard, well thought out and clearly presented, enabling staff to carry out their responsibilities efficiently.

What needs to be improved?

- opportunities for children to develop an awareness of persons with disabilities.

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
9	Review the provision of resources to promote children's awareness of persons with disabilities.

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.