



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 220270

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 23/09/2003
Inspector Name Jan Clarke-Potter

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Little Stones Pre-School and Out of School Clubs
Setting Address The Horsa Hut
Jackson Lane
Wellingborough
Northamptonshire
NN8 4LS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Little Stones Pre- School 1027256

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Little Stones Pre- School
Address The Horsa Hut
Jackson Lane
Wellingborough
Northamptonshire
NN8 4LB

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 Stones Pre-school and Out of School Clubs is a well established voluntary group which operates from its own premises, The Horsa Hut, near the centre of Wellingborough. The pre-school is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children under the age of eight at any one session. There are currently 48 children on roll and sessions are offered from 0900 to 1145 and 1230 to 1445 Monday to Friday in term time only.

The Out of School Club registered in 2002. It is registered to care for a maximum of 24 children from the age of three years to under eight years. There are currently 18 children on roll. Children over the age of eight may attend and are included in the overall numbers. Sessions are from 1500 to 1800 hours, and children are collected from local primary schools; St Barnabus and Freemans Endowed.

Little Stones Holiday Club also operates from the same premises during school holidays from 0900 to 1600 hours and is registered for 24 children aged five to eleven years.

There are five members of staff who work with all the children. Three members of staff including the supervisor hold an NVQ level 3 in childcare. The group caters for children who speak English as an additional language and supports children with special needs. The pre-school is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and is in receipt of qualified teacher support from Northamptonshire Early Years Development Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Stones Out of School Clubs provide satisfactory care for children. The Pre-School is not included in this inspection.

The premises are clean, warm and welcoming. A high proportion of staff are qualified, and staff training is kept up to date. There is a wide range of bright and attractive toys and equipment for children's use. The wide range of toys is shared by the pre-school and out of school clubs, and these are well maintained. There was limited interaction and play opportunities for older children, and they took a fleeting interest in the activities provided. Children are able to choose their own resources, however, and have free access to all parts of the room and to the outside play area.

Children's records and contact details are well organised and the registration system shows times of arrival and departure clearly. Staff have a good understanding of health and safety issues and ensure the environment is safe and secure. There are emergency procedures in place, although fire evacuations are not practised on a regular basis. Staff have a good understanding of medication issues, and children's individual needs are met. The special needs statement is in place however this does not have regard to the Code of Practice (2001). Good relationships have been established with parents and staff encourage communication between home and school. Parents are very pleased with the service provided by the group.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection it was agreed that prior written parental permission would be obtained for emergency medical treatment and that the written statement about special needs would be shared with parents. Parental permission is now in place ensuring a safer environment for children. The written statement about special needs has been shared with parents but does not yet have regard to the Code of Practice (2001).

What is being done well?

- The staff are aware of risks to children's health and safety. They ensure the physical environment is safe and secure, and implement child protection procedures which are robust, fully understood and which work in practice.
- Staff build positive relationships with the children, manage them well, and take an interest in what they say and do.
- Parents have trusting and friendly relationships with the staff. Information is shared to meet the children's individual needs.

What needs to be improved?

- the system for planning and providing suitable activities for older children;
- fire evacuation procedures; devise an evacuation plan and carry out and record fire drills periodically;
- special needs awareness; to ensure staff have regard to the Code Of Practice (2001) for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs, by updating their training and that the special needs statement is in line with current legislation.

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
6	Define procedures for emergency evacuations of the building, and carry out fire drills periodically.
10	develop staff's awareness of special needs with regard to the current legislation and guidance and ensure that the special needs statement has regard to the Code of Practice (2001) for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.
3	plan a range of activities and play opportunities for children's overall development for children aged five and upwards in the out of school clubs.

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.