



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY271568

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	11/02/2004
Inspector Name	Eleanor Bagshaw

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Stars
Setting Address	The Swindon College Nursery North Star Avenue Swindon Wiltshire SN2 1DY

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Swindon College
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Swindon College
Address	Regent Circus Swindon Wiltshire SN1 1PT

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 Stars Nursery opened in 2003. It operates from premises on the site of North Star College, Swindon.

The nursery serves the students and staff of the college, and the surrounding community. There are currently 48 children under five years on roll. This includes funded 4 year olds and funded 3 year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children with special needs.

The nursery opens Monday to Friday 50 weeks of the year. Sessions are from Monday to Thursday from 08.00 to 17.30, and on Friday from 08.00 to 17.00. There are 11 staff employed at the nursery; 7 have early years qualifications and 9 are currently on training programmes.

The setting receives support from a teacher/mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

Little Stars Nursery provides good quality care. The nursery is well planned and organised, creating a safe and stimulating environment. Staff are well deployed to provide good support for children's material and emotional needs. A high proportion of staff hold recognised professional qualifications, and there is a planned programme of induction and ongoing training. The play and reception areas contain up-to-date information for parents; attractive displays include items which children can easily see and touch.

Regular risk assessment and effective supervision contribute to the good standard of safety. Staff follow effective routines to promote children's health and comfort, helping them to look after their own hygiene and safety. First aid arrangements are well organised, and information displayed.

The children are offered a wide variety of experiences which absorb them, develop skills and offer opportunity for free play and social interaction. The children enjoy good relationships with staff, who give constructive help during planned tasks, asking open-ended questions and allowing children to work at their own pace and to become independent. The daily routine includes stimulating creative activities for all children. Staff provide good role models, encouraging children to be polite and

considerate. They respond well to children's physical and emotional needs, making sure, for example, that children's individual dietary needs are met and mealtimes are relaxed and happy.

There is regular exchange of information with parents through daily contact, written records, and display of information. Parents can refer to a range of written statements and policies which cover all aspects of management of the nursery. They are given opportunity to contribute their views through a suggestion box and the nursery's questionnaire. Records are clear and up-to-date, although not always providing a permanent point of reference.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff use the resources well when planning play, for example adding to the value of a cooking activity by placing the large clearly illustrated recipe book where children could see it.
- Staff support children well during play activities, for example giving younger children a gluing activity which was presented comfortably at their level. They provide plenty of help and conversation, and respond promptly to their needs.
- Good organisation and paperwork contribute to the safety of the nursery and to the children's well-being. Up-to-date notices remind parents and staff about day-to-day situations. Minutes of staff meetings are displayed in the playrooms so that staff can be reminded and parents informed of health and safety topics which have been discussed.
- The layout of the building contributes to good quality play. Several rooms are designed for particular areas of learning, enabling resources for music, soft play, technology, cooking, creative and imaginative play to be immediately accessible. In the imaginative play room, children can see and touch fruit and vegetables which are stacked on a stall with labels clearly visible.
- The nursery's routines encourage co-operative behaviour, confidence and independence. Children have opportunity to achieve and to earn praise. They wash up after snack time or a cooking activity. They tidy up, set the table and learn to follow instructions.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Staff show particular planning skills in the fine tuning of topics promoting awareness of cultures through activities and displays, which feed children's curiosity about everyday happenings. Festivals such as Chinese New Year, Diwali and Easter are supported by lively hands-on activities based on concepts familiar to children, such as 'weather', light and dark' and foods. Table and wall displays combine children's themed artwork, a rich collection of artefacts, and cards in large print giving information of interest to children and adults about the culture and its everyday life

and customs.

What needs to be improved?

- retention of the written record of children's arrival and departure times.

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
14	Ensure that a written record is retained of children's arrival and departure times.

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.