



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY258192

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/05/2004
Inspector Name Christine Cutts

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Explore Learning
Setting Address Savacentre, Bath Road
Calcot
Reading
Berkshire
RG31 7SA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Explore Learning Ltd 4117281

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Explore Learning Ltd
Address 3rd Floor
74 North Street
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4AW

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

Explore learning operates from a one room unit with in Sainsbury's Superstore at Calcot, Reading.

The provision serves a wide area.

Explore learning is registered to provide care for 26 children aged 4 to 8 years at any given time. Children between the ages of 8 years and up to fourteen years are also able to attend. Each child's session lasts a maximum of one hour 15 minutes.

Explore Learning opens seven days a week as follows: term times, 15:00 to 20:00 Monday to Friday, 10:00 to 18:00 Saturday and 10:00 to 16:00 Sunday. In school holidays: 12:00 to 20:00 Monday. Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 to 18:00 and on Sundays, 10:00 to 16:00.

Explore Learning has sole use of a purpose built area, including one main room plus a small office and communications room, gated reception area, one toilet and washbasin for sole use of the children and staff. Additional toilets are available within Sainsbury's supermarket, but children only visit these when accompanied by an adult.

The centre director for Calcot, Reading is Liz Doswell who is supported by assistant directors and part-time staff. All staff are qualified to work with the children on the "Success Maker" computer based, curriculum interactive educational tool.

How good is the Day Care?

The Explore Learning Centre provides good quality care for children in a warm and welcoming environment. The accommodation allows for a wide variety of learning activities and very good technology resources are made available for the children to choose from.

Qualified staff and management work well as a team to support the children's learning. All relevant documentation is in place to enable the group to care for the children, although it lacks necessary details in one area.

Children's health and welfare are well promoted, with staff encouraging good health routines but with some safety issues to be reviewed. Effective risk assessment is in place.

High staff ratios enable the staff to spend time getting to know the children and identify their individual needs. The group has effective special needs and child protection systems in place and children with special needs are well supported in the group.

The children are well supported and encouraged in their learning with a good range of planned activities to meet the developmental needs of children covering all areas of learning.

Staff promote equal opportunities well by monitoring children's individual needs and by ensuring that all activities and resources are made available to all children. Children's behaviour is generally good in a busy atmosphere, well supported by staff who help the children understand the rules of the group.

Parents support the group and very positive comments received show that they are happy with the care given and the information on their children's progress and care.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The previous inspection was a registration inspection and did not highlight areas of improvement

What is being done well?

- There is a full induction and training program for all staff in place covering many of the requirements of the national standards, SEN codes of practice, child protection, policies and procedures.
- Effective organisation and high staff levels allow the group to offer a very wide range of learning-based activities for the children to choose from and to fully support children in their learning and play.
- A very good range of technology resources are provided by the group, which are very much enjoyed by the children who were active and involved in their learning.
- Good use is made of the accommodation to offer children a warm and welcoming environment in which to play and learn.

What needs to be improved?

- Fire drills for staff and children to be fully aware of evacuation procedure.
- Accident records, to be signed by parents.

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	Ensure all children and staff are fully aware of the evacuation procedures with regular fire drills.
7	Ensure all accident records are signed by parents

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.