



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 220121

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 27/09/2004
Inspector Name Jill Hunn

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Northampton College Day Nursery
Setting Address College Grounds
Booth Lane
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 3RF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Northampton College

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Northampton College
Address Booth Lane
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 3RF

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

Northampton College Day Nursery opened in May 2000 but was previously registered as a playgroup in 1988. It operates from dedicated rooms within Block K of Northampton college. The nursery primarily provides care for the children of students at the college but also serves the local area.

There are currently 25 children on roll. This includes 10 funded three-year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. There are no children currently attending who have special needs or who speak English as an additional language.

The nursery opens five days a week during college term times. Sessions are from 08:45 to 17:15 on Mondays to Thursdays with the session on Fridays finishing at 16:15.

Three full-time and two part-time staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to level 3. The setting receives support from the Northamptonshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA).

The nursery is currently working towards the PSLA 'Aiming for Quality' accreditation scheme.

How good is the Day Care?

Northampton College Day Nursery provides good quality care for children. The premises are very safe, clean and welcoming. Staff, space and resources are organised thoughtfully to meet all children's needs effectively. There is a detailed operational plan which ensures that staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Records are maintained to a high standard and policies are generally comprehensive so that children's welfare and development are promoted.

The staff are very friendly and caring. They know children well and are particularly sensitive to their individual needs and ensure that all children are included. There are clear routines to the sessions which help children feel secure. Staff supervise children carefully and are very aware of potential hazards so that children are kept safe. They promote children's health by their good hygiene practices and by providing nutritious snacks and meals.

A broad range of stimulating learning and play opportunities are planned, both inside

and outside, which enable children to progress in all areas of their development. Resources and play materials are used imaginatively so that they capture children's interest well. They include good opportunities for children to learn to value diversity. Staff consistently encourage children and manage their behaviour skilfully.

The nursery develops positive relationships with parents. Staff successfully work together with parents to resolve any issues and promote children's well-being. A range of useful information is available to advise parents about their child's progress and how the nursery operates.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, actions were raised relating to documentation and staff knowledge of child protection procedures. The written statements for complaints, child protection and the procedure to be taken in the event of a child being lost or uncollected have been developed. Records for the attendance of children, staff and visitors are now in place together with written parental consent for emergency medical advice or treatment. Staff have also developed their knowledge of the local child protection procedures. These improvements ensure that children's welfare and development are further promoted.

What is being done well?

- Clear routines and the excellent use of visual displays within the nursery help children develop their confidence and independence.
- Staff provide activities and first-hand experiences which allow children to build on their natural curiosity as learners. Children investigate growth by planting bulbs and plants in the garden. They explore their local environment with outings to the post room and bakery, and through visits from the fire brigade.
- Staff encourage children to develop their mathematical skills during practical activities. Children count the number of jumps when jumping from hoop to hoop during outdoor play, match wellington boots and measure the height of plants.
- The premises are very safe, clean and attractive. They have been decorated with many colourful displays and examples of the children's work to create an inviting environment for parents and children.
- Resources reflect many positive images of differing race, culture, gender, language and disability. As a result, children learn to value and appreciate the similarities and differences in other people.
- Children readily respond to the consistent and clear boundaries set by staff. They behave very well and are polite.

What needs to be improved?

- the complaints procedure to further develop and clarify information about the role of the regulator
- the written statement on child protection so that it includes contact names and telephone numbers for the police and social services.

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
13	Develop the written statement on child protection so that it includes contact names and telephone numbers for the local police and social services.

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.