



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY229760

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 14/01/2004
Inspector Name Keriann Belcher

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Northolt Park Children Centre
Setting Address Newmarket Avenue
Northolt
Middlesex
UB5 4HB

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name L.B Ealing Play Services

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name L.B Ealing Play Services
Address Perceval House, 14-16
Uxbridge Road
London
W5 2HL

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

Northolt Park Children's Centre opened in September 2002. It operates from one large one in a community play centre located in the middle of a housing estate in Northolt. The nursery serves the local area. There is an open access scheme run on the premises for children aged over 8 years.

There are currently 8 children from 3 years to 5 years on roll. This does not include any funded 4 year olds. Children attend 5 full days per week.

The group opens 5 days a week, term time only. Sessions are from 9:00 until 14:45.

There are 2 full-time staff that work solely with the children in the nursery and 7 staff that cover part of the day and the Drop-in group. Over half of the staff have early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3. The setting receives support from the Ealing Pre-school Learning Alliance.

How good is the Day Care?

Northolt Centre provides satisfactory care for children. The person in charge is in the process of obtaining a suitable level of qualification and the deputy has already achieved the requirement. Members of the staff team have access to relevant training and some have previous experience of childcare. On the day of the inspection there was sufficient staff to meet the minimum child ratios. Due to lack of appropriate organisation, staff were not solely working directly with the children but were employed to do additional tasks. The premises is clean. Toys, equipment and furniture meet the needs of the children, but are not prepared in advance.

Staff have a good understanding of the potential hazards in and outside of the provision, although do not always ensure that steps are taken to minimize these dangers. Arrangements for first aid and medication meet with requirements. Staff promote good health and hygiene practises with the children to prevent cross infection. The children bring in a packed lunch and the staff provide snacks. Individual dietary needs are known and respected. The snack foods consist of either a biscuit or toast with a juice drink.

The children are encouraged to express their imagination and creativity through the activities and play equipment. There is a range of resources and children are able to choose their activity. The activities that promote children's language and

mathematical thinking were limited. The staff have a positive attitude to anti-discriminatory practice, which is reflected in the resources and activity plans. Children are valued as individuals, good behaviour is encouraged.

Staff welcome parents into the setting and parents are kept informed about their child's progress and the provision using a variety of methods. There is a good system to ensure the children are only collected by an authorised person. The policies are clear.

What has improved since the last inspection?

There were no actions imposed at the previous inspection.

What is being done well?

- The children are encouraged to participate in craft activities that are child focused and involve different media.
- Staff prevent the spreading of cross infection by having excellent hygiene practices when handling food, for example by wearing protective gloves.
- The parents are communicated with daily when collecting or leaving their child and there is a parents information board which is regularly updated and accessed by the parents.

What needs to be improved?

- the provision of suitable contingency plans for staff absences to enable staffing ratios to be met at all times and staff to take their lunch breaks.
- the organisation of the sessional activities in advance of the children arriving by for example, the setting out of the home corner, craft activities and substituting unused activities.
- the improving of fire safety precautions by ensuring that a smoke alarm, which conforms to BS EN standards is appropriately located.
- the removal of graffiti from the outside of the premises.
- the provision of snacks that are healthy and nutritious.
- the enhancement of activities that promote language and mathematical thinking, for example, sand and water play.

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
2	Ensure the provision of suitable contingency plans for staff absences to enable staffing ratios to be met at all times and staff to take their lunch breaks.
3	Enhance activities that promote language and mathematical thinking.
4	Remove the graffiti from the outside of the premises.
6	Improve the fire safety precautions by ensuring that a smoke alarm, which conforms to BS EN standards is appropriately located.
8	Provide snacks that are healthy and nutritious.

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.