



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 315279

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	28/10/2004
Inspector Name	Patricia Ann Sang

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	St Matthew's Link Club
Setting Address	St Matthew's Church Hall Stretton Road, Stretton Warrington Cheshire WA4

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Joyce Kernahan
------	--------------------

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

St. Matthews Link Club was registered in 1994. It is one of five out of school clubs owned and run by Joyce Kernahan. The club is based in St. Matthews Church of England school located in the Stretton area of Warrington.

The provision operates Monday to Friday and includes a breakfast club from 08:00 to 09:00, an after school club from 15:00 to 18:00 and playschemes in the Easter, summer and half term holidays from 08:00 to 18:00. It closes only for public holidays and the Christmas school break.

Children accessing the provision are those who are pupils of St. Matthews school for the breakfast and after school club. Children from the wider communities of Warrington, Halton and Cheshire access the holiday playschemes. There are currently 57 children on roll.

A complement of five staff, four of whom hold a level three qualification and one working toward a qualification, look after the children.

The club support two children with English as an additional language and a child with special needs.

How good is the Day Care?

St. Matthews Link Club provides good quality care for children. Most of the staff group are qualified in early years work or are actively working toward a qualification. Written policies and procedures are in place and cover all aspects of care. Staff have their own personal file of policies for continued reference. However, the staff induction does not actively cover child protection in the first week of employment. Areas where children play are child focused with appropriate furniture and equipment to meet their varying needs. Staff rota's ensure good supervision of children.

Much emphasis is placed on health and safety. A full assessment of risk is documented and kept in its own file. Children are familiar with good hygiene practice with routines established for specific activities. Staff have due regard for children with particular dietary or behavioural needs. They are aware of, and deal with child protection issues appropriately.

Activities are planned ahead, staff take lead responsibility in setting up and

supervising projects. Children participate in a wide range of pursuits that support their ongoing learning and development. Children are sociable with each other and enjoy age appropriate activities which are stimulating and fun. Staff clearly enjoy looking after children, they strike a balance in helping them while respecting their independence. Children behave well, they are friendly and co-operative with each other. They are respectful of staff and listen when staff talk to them. As a result, children are happy, relaxed and confident within the setting.

Good relationships are fostered with parents. They receive an information booklet at the outset. Newsletters, a notice board, photographs and daily discussion all contribute to good working relationships.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, it was agreed that checks for gas and electricity are up to date, that cleaning materials are stored safely and drinking water is readily available to children. It was also agreed that procedures in the child protection policy include those where an allegation is made against a staff member and that the policy complies with the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures.

The local authority take responsibility for the annual checks for gas and electricity within the school, the certificates are held by the school caretaker. The out of school have their own electrical appliances checked annually with portable appliance tested stickers to evidence the check. All cleaning materials and dangerous substances are stored safely out of the reach of children. These actions ensure risk is minimised and children and staff are safe. A jug of fresh water and mugs are set out every day for children to easily access should they require a drink. Procedures are now in place should there be an allegation made against a staff member. The out of school club have telephone numbers and a named person on file, in keeping with the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures, should there be a child protection matter to deal with. This ensures that any issues are dealt with appropriately and effectively.

What is being done well?

- The staff ratio for children is very good. Staff plan many activities that require close supervision and children are well supported in their chosen interests.
- Daily checks are carried out and documented to make sure that all areas where children are looked after continue to be safe. Staff talk through safety matters with children as they arise. They explain why it is not safe to play on the grass while outdoors when it is wet and slippery.
- The classrooms children use are welcoming and child focused. Big armchairs are placed in the book area where children can sit comfortably while they read or look at picture books.
- Children have many activities to choose from. Baking is popular with girls and boys and they get much pleasure in weighing the flour and mixing in water to make a dough base for pizza's. They use toppings of ham, cheese, pineapple and cherry tomatoes with skill. Children are proud of the finished product as it

comes out of the oven.

- Staff have due regard for all children and are knowledgeable about their varying particular needs. They ensure that appropriate adult support is provided for children with behavioural difficulties and they are vigilant in the provision of breakfasts and snacks for those with special dietary requirements. Staff deal with child protection issues effectively and with sensitivity.
- The emphasis on equal opportunities is good. Boys participate in knitting and baking and girls show strategic skills in computer games. Disability is introduced sensitively where children learn through discussion and planned activity sessions. Cultural weeks are ongoing with countries looked at in some detail around dress, food, customs and language and children learn about the wider world.
- Parents are kept up to date about the provision and their children with regular newsletters, an information booklet, photographs, daily discussion and a notice board.

What needs to be improved?

- the staff induction schedule to ensure child protection is actively covered in the first week of employment.

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
2	Ensure child protection is covered adequately in the first week of employment.

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.