



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 219237

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 17/01/2005

Inspector Name Kelly Eyre

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Creche Day Care

Setting Name Family Groups Bedford Training Course Creche

Setting Address Raleigh Centre
Amphill Road
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK42 9HE

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Family Groups Bedford Training Course Creche 2948661
1045275

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Family Groups Bedford Training Course Creche

Address Raleigh Centre
Amphill Road
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK42 9HE

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

Family Groups Training Course Crèche is run by Family Groups (Bedford). The crèche opened in 1982 and operates from one main room within a school setting. It is situated in a residential area close to Bedford town centre. A maximum of 13 children may attend the crèche at any one time. The crèche operates on Monday's during term-time and sessions are from 09:30 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 15:00. Children have access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently eleven children aged from 6 weeks to under 5 years on roll. The crèche is for the use of Family Groups training course participants only. The crèche currently supports a number of children with special educational needs and also supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language.

The crèche employs three staff. Two of the staff, including the manager, hold appropriate early years qualifications. The remaining staff member is working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Family Groups Training Course Crèche provides good quality care for children. They are very well organised, enabling them to make the best use of staff skills and resources. This means they are able to offer children a variety of activities that are both stimulating and good fun. There is a wide range of toys and resources, and staff use their experience and knowledge to make sure that all children can participate in the opportunities offered and gain as much as they can, both educationally and socially. Staff show a genuine interest in all the children, spending time getting to know them and joining in enthusiastically with their play and discussions.

Clear policies and procedures and a good staff induction process mean that staff are able to act in the best interests of the children. Staff are clear and consistent in their management of behaviour and children are aware of what is expected of them. They respond well to the staff and to the calm atmosphere. Staff act as good role models and the children learn about sharing, negotiating and turn-taking. Their health and safety are given a high priority and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure the continuing safety of both staff and children.

Staff have good relationships with parents, demonstrating their sensitivity yet

maintaining professional boundaries. Parents are given clear information about the crèche and kept up to date through regular discussions with staff and the use of notices and displays.

All paperwork is in place so that individual children's needs are recorded and can be met. Staff are well supervised and are provided with opportunities to attend additional training. This creates a positive atmosphere, enhancing the care provided for the children. All staff show a commitment to furthering the development of the crèche and extending the opportunities and care they offer.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At their last inspection, the group was asked to develop their sick child policy. This has now been amended to include a procedure to be followed should a child become ill while in the crèche, further improving the care offered. The group was also asked to include Ofsted's details in their complaints policy. This has been updated, ensuring that parents have information about how to make a complaint and access to relevant contact details.

What is being done well?

- All areas of work are very well organised. Staff are always clear about their role, enabling the children to feel secure and confident. Good organisation also means that staff are able to be flexible in their working arrangements, meeting the different needs of the children and responding to varying numbers.
- There is a wide selection of toys and resources. These are changed during the session so that children's interest is maintained. Toys and resources are easily accessible. Children can see what is available and make choices about their play, promoting their independence. Staff are observant and often play alongside the children, suggesting different activities and ensuring that resources are used to their full potential.
- Children's safety is promoted. There is a comprehensive risk assessment covering all areas and giving practical solutions to potential risks and hazards. Staff are very aware of the environment and potential risks, taking steps to remove or minimise these whilst still allowing the children sufficient freedom to explore their environment.
- Staff make the most of opportunities at snack time. It is viewed as a social occasion and children are involved in various discussions. They are also involved in pouring their own drinks and choosing their snacks, thus promoting their independence.
- Behaviour is well managed. Staff are calm, relaxed and confident in their approach, promoting a calm atmosphere throughout the session. Children respond positively to this atmosphere and it is carried through to all areas (e.g. story time and outdoor play are busy and children fully participate but these activities are never disruptive or out of control).

- There is a clear, practical child protection policy and procedure. This includes guidance about reporting, recording, working with other agencies, supporting parents and identifying possible signs of abuse or neglect. Staff are therefore able to promote the welfare of children in their care.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

Staff are skilled in observing and assessing children so that they are able to provide activities to cover a wide range of ages and abilities. Excellent visual methods are used and, despite the fact that children attend for only fifteen sessions, every opportunity is used to extend the children's learning and further their individual development. (Standard 3)

What needs to be improved?

- the behaviour management policy, to include a procedure for dealing with bullying.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
11	develop the behaviour management policy to include a procedure for dealing with bullying

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.