



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 203962

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	24/06/2003
Inspector Name	Lynn Amelia Hartigan

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Squirrels Pre School
Setting Address	St Johns & Highwood Community Centre Highwoods COLCHESTER Essex CO4 4SR

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	The Committee of Exec Com/tee of the St John's & Highwoods Com Asso
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ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Exec Com/tee of the St John's & Highwoods Com Asso
Address	Squirrels Pre-School St Johns Highwood Community Colchester Essex CO4 9SR

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

Squirrels Pre-school opened in 1999. It operates from the Highwood's Community Centre, in the Highwood's residential area of Colchester. The pre-school serves the local community.

The pre-school is registered to provide places for 24 children aged between two and five years. There are currently 59 children from two years six months to five years on roll. This includes 38 funded three year olds and 13 funded four year olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports children who have special needs or who have English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during term times. Sessions are from 09:30 to 12:00 noon, four mornings a week and two afternoon sessions from 13:00 to 15:30 on Monday and 12:15 to 14:45 on Wednesday.

Seven part time staff and one full time staff work with the children. Five have early years' qualifications. One staff member is currently on a training programme. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA)

How good is the Day Care?

The Squirrels Pre-School provides good quality overall care for children aged two to five years.

There are good staffing levels in place which allow staff to work well as a team and provide a high standard of care. There is a commitment by staff to attend training and this is supported by the pre-school committee. Written policies and procedures that are in place within the operational plan enables staff to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to develop and learn. The group provides a bright, warm and welcoming environment for both parents and children and effective use of the space provides children access to a wide range of activities and play opportunities.

Procedures are in place to ensure the children's safety and security. However a policy regarding seeking emergency treatment or advice is not in place and the policy regarding complaints needs updating.

There is an excellent range of activities provided including a well resourced, secure

outdoor area. Toys and equipment are of a high standard and appropriate to the age range of the children, these include resources that positively reflect diversity. Children are interested and enjoy their play supported by adults who are intuitive of their individual needs and provide them with praise and encouragement. Staff interaction with the children is excellent. Staff have a consistent but sensitive approach to behaviour management.

Good relationships are established with the parents. Parents are provided with information regarding children's activities, progress and development.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, it was agreed that the group undertook a risk assessment. The risk assessment has been completed and continues to be a standard procedure for the group. It was agreed that a copy of the public liability insurance certificate was displayed for parents. The certificate is now displayed on the parent's notice board. It was agreed that the policy regarding child protection was reviewed and updated. This has been completed.

What is being done well?

- Staffing levels in the pre-school are good. This enables excellent child/staff relationships and staff interaction with the children. The children feel supported within a safe, secure and welcoming environment. (Standard 2)
- The staff plan varied learning opportunities to support the children's individual needs within a very well resourced environment. (Standard 3)
- Partnership with parents is good and parents are kept well informed of the group's activities and their children's development. (Standard 12)
- The staff praise and encourage the children continually and have a consistent but sensitive approach to managing unwanted behaviour. (Standard 11)
- Documents, records and a good operational plan that are well maintained support the smooth running of the pre-school. (Standard 14)

What needs to be improved?

- the complaints procedure, to be reviewed and updated and include contact details of the regulator (Ofsted); (Standard 12)
- a policy regarding seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and obtaining written parental consent; (Standard 12)

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
12	make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
12	request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and have a written policy

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.