



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 200809

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 29/09/2003
Inspector Name Shami Kumar

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name THE LINKS DAY CARE CENTRE LTD
Setting Address VICTORIA ROAD
HARTSHILL
NUNEATON
WARICKS
CV10 0LS

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Links Daycare Centre Ltd

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name The Links Daycare Centre Ltd
Address Victoria Road
Hartshill
Nuneaton
Warwickshire
CV10 0LS

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

The Links Club Nursery and Day Care Centre have been opened since 1992 and are run by a management committee. The provision is situated within the Hartshill area of Nuneaton and is a short distance from the town centre. The setting operates from two large classrooms, which are situated within the grounds of Nathaniel Newton Infants School. Children attending the facility are primarily from the local area and the surrounding villages.

The facility operates between the hours of 08.00 to 18.00 for 50 weeks of the year, but is closed on Bank Holidays and teacher training days. The facility offers care for children aged from three years up to the age of 12. The facility runs an Early Birds session from 08.00 until 08.45, the nursery 09.00 until 15.15 and the out of school club from 15.30 until 18.00. During the school holidays there is also a playscheme, which runs from 08.00 until 18.00. The setting provides support for children with special educational needs and for whom English is not their first language.

There are outdoor play areas and the group can use the school grounds. There are 65 children on roll of whom 41 three-year-olds and seven, four-year-olds are in receipt of nursery funding. There are presently 17 members of staff within the setting and the majority have relevant childcare qualifications. The setting has made good links with the reception class teacher, and receives support from the advisory teacher, who is part of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

The Links Day Care Centre provides good care for children aged between the ages of three to under eight years of age. Staff ensure that most areas are safe inside and outdoors and safety precautions are taken into account, however the facility needs to carry out regular risk assessments in order to identify any hazards. Equipment, toys and resources are regularly checked and well maintained, and these are all easily accessible to the children.

Staff work together as a team and support each other. All staff are involved in planning activities for the children. Staff manage children's behaviour well and encourage the children to be independent, confident, praise and compliment them. The provision provides a wide range of interesting activities for the children and encourages them to make their own choices about play and learning. These allow

the children to make progress in all areas of learning. There are opportunities for children to explore, investigate and use their imagination in a variety of creative and constructive activities.

The children play well together and enjoy each other's company. There is a key worker system in place, and the key worker is responsible for completing a new style of assessment recording. Children have a good understanding of good hygiene, which is incorporated into the daily routine. Snack time has been introduced as a cafeteria system, when children decide when they wish to take their refreshment.

A good partnership exists with parents who speak highly of the setting, and they are kept well informed about activities through daily feedback, newsletters, and being involved as part of the committee. Parents are aware of the policies and procedures, and are invited to open evenings twice a year, in order to discuss their child's progress. All documentation is in place and is reviewed on a regular basis.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection there were a number of actions raised. The setting needed to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. Individual records needed to be kept on the premises of staff, volunteers, and committee members including information about recruitment, training and qualifications. The water in the outdoor area was to be inaccessible to children. The hazardous plants in the outdoor area needed to be inaccessible to children. Finally the setting needed to ensure that the child protection statement included procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation against a member of staff.

Since the last inspection the setting now has all medication administered recorded in a book and also has written consent from parents before administering any medicines. The setting has made up individual files for all staff, committee members, volunteers, students on the premises and includes information regarding recruitment, references, training undertaken, qualification certificates, contracts, job descriptions, etc. The water in the outdoor area have now been made into growing flower troughs therefore are no longer pose a risk to the children, and the hazardous plants have been made inaccessible to children by the construction of a high fence. The child protection statement now includes procedures to be followed in the event of any allegations made against a member of staff.

What is being done well?

- Wide range of interesting activities where children are able to make choices and which allow the children to make good progress in all areas of development. Additional equipment is borrowed from the resource library.
- Good relationships have formed between children and staff as well as within peer group. Staff are interested in what the children say, and respond appropriately.
- Children are well behaved, independent, confident, and eager to join in with activities. The children are happy and well settled.

- A good partnership exists with parents. The parents are kept well informed of all aspects regarding the facility, and the children are cared for according to the parent's wishes.
- Space, resources and equipment are used imaginatively to create a stimulating environment.
- Individual needs of children are met well. The staff know the children well and spend time talking and helping them to learn in small groups as well as individually. Children are introduced to different cultures and festivals so that they are able to understand similarities and differences.

What needs to be improved?

- the carrying out of risk assessments.

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
6	conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying action to be taken to minimise identified risks.

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.