



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY285450

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	09/08/2004
Inspector Name	Diane Mary O'Neill

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Out of School Day Care
Setting Name	Stevenage Borough Council Playscheme
Setting Address	Bedwell Community Centre Bedwell Crescent Stevenage Herts SG1 1NA

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Stevenage Borough Council
------	---------------------------

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	Stevenage Borough Council
Address	Daneshill House, Danestrete Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1HN

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

Bedwell Playscheme re-opened at this site in April 2004. It is part of the Stevenage Borough Council playschemes and playcentres. This provision is an open access playscheme which operates from the main hall of the Bedwell Community Centre, in the Bedwell area of Stevenage. Outside there is an enclosed area next to the public park which the playscheme uses for outdoor recreation.

There are currently children aged from 5 years to 14 years attending this playscheme. Children attend either the morning or afternoon session, or both. The setting currently has no children attending who have special needs and none who have English as an additional language.

The playscheme is open Monday to Friday during the Summer and Easter holidays.

Opening times are from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm.

There is a staff team of 7 who work full time. Some of the staff have early years experience. Play officers support the playscheme.

How good is the Day Care?

Bedwell Playscheme provides satisfactory care for children aged 5 years to 14 years.

The playscheme provides a welcoming environment for the children, there are clear routines in place. Staff work well as a team getting to know all the children as individuals, including those with special needs.

Staff provide a safe and secure environment for the children. They ensure that their areas within the community centre are used effectively. Health, hygiene and safety within the playscheme is generally good. However, staff need to review their risk assessment process including the monitoring system for younger children using the toilet facilities.

Some of the staff have had experience of working in playschemes in the past. All staff attend a training course before they start work in the playscheme. This keeps them up-to-date with childcare practices, and includes basic first aid. The

qualifications of staff within the playscheme is not clear. Management must ensure that correct levels of qualified staff are maintained.

There is a suitable range of toys and resources accessible to all the children within the playscheme site. The staff team are very good at encouraging and involving the children within the different activities. However, all staff should be aware of the activity planning and more resources to promote equal opportunities should be available.

Staff have a good working relationship with the parents. There are systems in place that enables the sharing of information, such as notice boards by the entrance. However, booking-in details must be correctly completed. Behaviour management procedures are good, staff have involved the children in drawing up playscheme rules. This gives them some form of ownership for their own behaviour management, as well as the strategies that the staff team have in place.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- There are very good staffing levels in place. This enables a good level of interaction between staff and children.
- The staff use the resources imaginatively to provide fun and interesting play experiences, such as making clay model animals and beautiful book marks. The activities are adapted well to ensure all age levels and abilities can participate.
- Effective behaviour management strategies are in place. Some have been developed by the children, so they can feel responsible for anything taking place in their playscheme.

What needs to be improved?

- Qualified staff ratios.
- Planning of activities to be more accessible to everyone.
- Risk assessments to be more formalised and to include monitoring of children using the toilets.
- Resources to reflect all areas of equal opportunities.
- Booking in details to be monitored and checked more effectively.

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
1	Ensure at least half of all staff hold a level 2 qualification appropriate for the care or development of children.
3	Ensure all staff are aware of the appropriate planning of activities and play opportunities
6	Ensure a formal risk assessment procedure is in place, that also includes monitoring the safety of children using the centre's toilets.
9	Provide sufficient resources to reflect all areas of equal opportunities.
14	Ensure that all booking forms are completed with all details.

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.