



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 130519

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 26/08/2003
Inspector Name Siobhan O'Callaghan

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Young Adventurers Out of School Care
Setting Address The Lincolnsfield Centre
Bushey Hall Drive
Bushey
Hertfordshire
WD23 2ES

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mr F McLennan

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

Young Adventurers Out of School Clubs opened in August 1993. They operate from the Lincolnsfield Centre in Bushey. This is a large site with over four acres of woodlands. The Clubs do not have sole access to all facilities as there are various other provisions in operation, this includes a soft play activity centre, a farm, a nursery, and a residential centre accessed by schools. The After School Club generally accesses the club house of which they do have sole access, however the Playscheme tend to utilise the majority of facilities available. The After School Club offers their services to six local schools, they have a mini-bus which enables them to collect these children from the various schools. The Playscheme serves the local area and beyond, they currently have children on roll that live in Finchley, Stanmore and Edgware.

The Out of School Clubs are popular, they are generally full for the current Summer Playscheme and they have their quota for the After School Club in September. Parents are currently signing their children up for the October Playscheme. Children attend for a minimum of two days per week. The Clubs accommodate children with special needs, their individual requirements are discussed prior to the children attending the provision.

The After School Club operates five days a week during school term times, offering care from 15:15 - 18:15. The Playscheme operates during all school holidays offering care from 9:00 - 18:15.

Many of the staff work within both Clubs, thus providing some continuity of care for those children accessing both facilities. The Manager has been working within this provision for the past nine years. Both the Manager and Deputy have relevant early years qualifications. Two members of staff are currently on training programmes. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP). They are a registered charity.

How good is the Day Care?

This inspection looked at the Playscheme provision, however the premises used, are generally the same for both clubs and the Manager and Deputy work within both settings, thus providing some continuity of care. They provide satisfactory care for the children. The staff plan a wide range of activities for the children, these are planned and organised in advance. Children aged under 8 years are generally cared

for in two separate groups, with appropriate adult support. The children have opportunities to explore a varied environment, on inspection the children were generally focussed and keenly participated in the many activities available. Most documentation is in place to ensure the smooth running of the clubs, however some procedures need to be addressed immediately.

Children's health and safety is generally given high priority, there are thorough risk assessments in place to ensure that safety issues are continually monitored, however there are some aspects of children's safety that have not been addressed. The setting has a positive approach to the integration of all families and is happy to accommodate all children where possible, they are currently caring for several children with special needs.

The staff have a good understanding of the children's individual needs, they know that some children enjoy the more physical activities, and vice a versa, others prefer the quieter art activities, thus a good balance is provided. On inspection the staff interacted appropriately with the children, they sat at their level and seemed to have developed secure relationships with them. The children listened and followed staff's instructions, thus behaviour was generally good.

The setting has developed their information for parents, thus parents are now more informed about the settings policies and procedures. At the end of the inspection I had an opportunity to talk to some parents, they expressed that they were very happy with the service being provided.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting was asked to extend the parents information to include a policy on special needs, and to ensure that the children's enrolment form includes a space to record dietary requirements or allergies, these are now in place. They were advised to keep the parents information pack up to date with relevant information regarding Ofsted, this is also now in place. Staff were informed that they must have an awareness of the settings behaviour management policy, all staff received training soon after the last inspection. The setting was asked to ensure that all furniture is in good repair, inappropriate furniture has now been disposed of, and staff are vigilant to the suitability of all furniture in use by the children.

Staff were advised, to ensure that the outdoor area adjoining the premises were well maintained and safe, this area is now free from hazards such as dangerous plants. However this area is not secure, as the gate is currently accessible to children due to a faulty bolt.

What is being done well?

- The children are offered a wide range of stimulating activities in an interesting environment. The children can explore the woods with adult supervision, they can visit and touch the animals within the farm, as well as participate in many worthwhile activities such as arts and crafts, and various sports. (Standard 3 and 5)

- The staff fully utilise this multi-purpose site, to enable the children to explore and access the many facilities available. On Inspection the staff were vigilant and careful when walking children from the different areas of the site. (Standard 4 and 6)
- The setting has a positive approach to the integration of all families, the children are encouraged to participate in all activities, however there is always access to an alternative activity if they do not want to engage in what is on offer. (Standard 9 and 10)
- The staff have developed positive club rules with the children, these are displayed around the walls. The rules are reinforced on a daily basis, the children were generally co-operative and respected the adults caring for them. (Standard 11)
- The Manager and Deputy have both attended recent Child Protection training, they would always endeavour to act in the best interests of the children, to ensure their safety. (Standard 13)

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, to ensure the times of children's arrival and departure are recorded and a written procedure to be in place for lost or uncollected children. Further written procedures to be available for staff and parents, regarding the safe use of specialist activities. (Standards 2 and 12 and 14)
- children's safety regarding the security of the outside play area. (Standard 6)

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
2	the registered person maintains written operating procedures for each specialist activity programme they offer, this refers to all sporting activities and the	30/09/2003

	provision of the animal and activity worlds.	
6	ensure that children can not leave the garden area unsupervised, this refers to the gate.	01/09/2003

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection	
Std	Recommendation
2	ensure the times of children's arrival and departure are recorded.
2	ensure there are procedures in place to be followed in the event of a child being lost or a parent failing to collect a child.

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.