



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 146803

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 10/07/2003
Inspector Name Susan Tuffnell

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Great Group After School and Holiday Club
Setting Address Baldock Community Centre
Simpson Drive
Baldock
Hertfordshire
SG7 5DF

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Mrs Susan Johnson

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 Great Group After School Club and Playscheme is based at the Youth Club in Simpson Drive, Baldock. The After School club operates term time only and children are collected by staff from local schools and escorted to the Youth Club. The opening times are 15.15 to 18.00 Monday to Friday. The group is registered to provide care for 24 children aged 4 - 8 years.

There are 7 staff, 3 of which have a recognised childcare qualification.

Most staff are trained in First Aid.

How good is the Day Care?

The Great Group After School Club provides satisfactory care for children.

Staff implement the operational plan well and organisation of the sessions is good.

Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities through regular supervision and staff meetings. They are skillful in managing children's behaviour and developing confidence and independence.

Children are happy and settled.

Activities allow them to explore and investigate with freedom of choice.

Children have access to a secure outdoor area however, attention should be given to ensuring the area is suitable before being used.

Staff have procedures in place to ensure children are safe inside and outside the club. Equipment is checked and maintained in line with the Health and Safety Policy.

Children have independent use of the toilets and therefore any hazardous materials must be inaccessible.

Children have healthy snacks and access to fresh drinking water.

There is a Tuck Shop selling sweets.

The care of children with special needs is good. Staff work well with parents and other professionals to access training and information.

There are strong partnerships with parents who are well informed about the policies and procedures.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Make kitchen inaccessible to children Standard 4.

The door is closed and children told the kitchen is out-of-bounds.

Ensure that the premises are well lit Standard 4.

The overhead lights are kept on.

Provide a range of toys and activities in order to meet the developing needs of the children attending Standard 5.

Good selection seen. The Activity Planner covers the developmental needs.

Ensure that fire exits are kept clear and free from hazards. Standard 6.

All exits are clear.

Secure the outside premises to ensure that children may not leave the premises unsupervised. Standard 6.

Bolt on the gate. Padlock on the double gates. Children are supervised.

Ensure that good hygiene practices are in place in respect of the use of the kitchen to prevent the spread of infection. Standard 7.

Policy in place and implemented.

Ensure that written permission from parents is obtained prior to administering medication to children. Standard 7.

Consent form in place.

Ensure that the first aid box and contents comply with Health and Safety (First Aid) regulations. Standard 7.

Complies.

Ensure that fresh drinking water is available to children at all times. Standard 8.

Water in jug with cups, available throughout session and within easy reach of children.

Designate a staff member who is responsible for behaviour management

issues. Standard 11.

The supervisor.

Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. Standard 13.

Child protection training completed by 2 staff member. Training is ongoing.

What is being done well?

- Staff organises sessions well with room layout and activity plans. (Standards 2 and 3)
- Children are happy and settled. They form small groups of friends and chatter happily.
- (Standard 3)
- Staff arrange interesting activities. The topic "music" gave children opportunities to explore design using different materials. (Standards 3 and 5)
- Children have free choice of equipment and toys. Planning is flexible. Children chose to play outside ball games.
- (Standard 5 and 9)
- Staff adapted the environment on a very hot day using fans positioned around the room.
- (Standard 4)
- Staff follow procedures to protect sick children. A child complained of a headache and the parents was contacted. A member of staff monitored her until the parent arrived.
- Staff are fully involved in the care of children with special needs. There are 3 children with special needs attending.
- (Standard 10)

What needs to be improved?

- Procedure for checking safety of the outside play area.
- (Standard 4)
- Procedure for checking safety in the toilet area.
- (Standard 7)
- Procedure for healthy eating. (Standard 8)

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 |
|-----|--|
| 4 | Ensure outside play area is checked for hazards, and litter cleared before children use it. |
| 7 | Ensure hazardous substances are inaccessible to children. This refers to disinfectant blocks in the urinals. |
| 8 | Review policy with reference to providing children with healthy eating options. (Tuck shop) |

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.