



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 309211

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 02/02/2005
Inspector Name Rod Green

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Alphabet House Day Nursery
Setting Address 444 Fleetwood Road
Fleetwood
Lancashire
FY7 8AT

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Alphabet House Ltd 3147104

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Alphabet House Ltd
Address 54 Counce Street
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY1 3LJ

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

Alphabet House Day Nursery opened in March 1992. It operates from three base areas and has six rooms. It is situated in a residential area of Fleetwood, Lancashire. A maximum of 42 children may attend the nursery at any one time. The nursery is open each weekday from 08:00 to 18:00. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area.

There are currently 69 children from birth to under 8 years on roll. Of these 19 children receive funding for nursery education. The nursery currently supports a number of children with special needs.

The nursery employs 12 staff. Ten of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. Two staff are working towards a qualification.

How good is the Day Care?

Alphabet House Day Nursery provides satisfactory care for children. The premises have been recently extended and are well set out, particularly upstairs. Toys and equipment have been purchased but are not yet installed in the baby room and two year old areas. Some information in the operational plan is inaccurate and the complaints procedure is out of date.

Staff conduct daily safety checks on all areas to ensure any risk to children is minimised. There is a good two week menu in place which demonstrates an understanding of a balanced diet and good nutrition. Written permissions for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment are not in place. The staff have a limited knowledge of child protection issues. Most health and safety issues are in place, but there are no procedures for ensuring written parental permissions for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment, and the arrangements for providing privacy should a child with special needs require it when using the toilet are inadequate.

There is a good range of activities available to children particularly in the pre-school rooms. Activities are planned in advance and relate to themes such as "Growing and Changing". There is good photographic evidence of past activities throughout the nursery. Staff have good behaviour management skills and give praise and rewards for good behaviour. There are some good resources reflecting diversity and staff are active in promoting equal opportunities. There is a lack of privacy in the toilet areas should a child with special needs require it.

There are good lines of communication between staff and parents. All babies have written records of their day and parents of older children receive a verbal report.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to make the radiators safe and ensure there is at least one first aider on the premises. All radiators are now covered and all staff hold a current first aid certificate. These actions have helped to improve the quality of care offered to the children.

What is being done well?

- There is a good range of activities available. These are planned around themes. The current theme is "Growing and Changing" and children enjoy songs connected with this, and painting pictures of the food "The Hungry Caterpillar" would eat. Children also enjoy learning about the wider world. They particularly enjoy counting numbers in Spanish and recognising the flags of countries, an activity that has grown from their interest in the last football word cup.
- The nursery has a positive behaviour management policy. Staff help promote this by giving plenty of praise, and rewards such as stickers to show how well a child has done. This helps children develop a sense of right and wrong.
- Food is prepared by the cook and there is a two week menu in place. The menus includes all main food groups and ensures that children receive a balanced and nutritious diet. All the children, from the babies to the older ones, enjoyed the meat and potato pie and fresh fruit they had for lunch on the day of the inspection.

What needs to be improved?

- the arrangements for ensuring the operational plan is accurate and the complaints procedure is kept up to date
- the arrangements for ensuring sufficient toys, equipment and bedding are available for all children
- the procedures for ensuring written parental permissions for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment are in place
- the arrangements for providing privacy should a child with special needs require it when using the toilet
- the staff knowledge of child protection issues.

PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS (This section applies only to inspections carried out from September 2004. The complaint record relates to complaints from the last inspection or 1st April 2004 whichever is later.)

There are no complaints to report from 1st April 2004.
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Outcome of the inspection

Satisfactory

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
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<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
2	Ensure all information contained in the operational plan is accurate and up to date.
5	Ensure that sufficient and suitable toys, equipment and bedding are available to meet the needs of all children.
7	Request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.
10	Ensure the privacy of children when intimate care is being provided.
13	Develop staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.
14	Ensure the complaints procedure is accurate and up to date.

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.