



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 507849

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 28/09/2004
Inspector Name Heather Fletcher

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name Heather Rabbit Nursery
Setting Address Heather Row Cottage
Heather Row, Nately Scures
Hook
Hampshire
RG27 9JP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Ms Rosemary Ward

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

Heather Rabbit Nursery opened in 1985. It operates from a private house. Accommodation used includes the main playroom and secure garden, with the occasional use of two sitting rooms, kitchen and conservatory. It is in a quiet rural location in Nately Scures, near Hook, Hants, and the nursery serves the surrounding villages and towns.

There are currently 32 children from 3 years to 5 years on roll. This includes 29 funded three years olds. Children attend for a variety of half and whole day sessions. The setting supports children who have special needs and those who speak English as an additional language, although none attend currently.

The group opens 5 days a week during school term times. For those receiving the education grant sessions are from 09:15 until 12:00, 12:15 until 15:00 hours, or 09:00 until 15:00 if all day. For children not in receipt of the grant, sessions run from 09:30 until 12:00, 12:30 until 15:00, or 09:30 until 15:00 if all day. When staying for a full day or afternoon session children bring their own packed lunches.

There are nine part time staff working with the children, and a peripatetic Kodaly music teacher attends once a week. Seven staff have early years qualifications at NVQ or equivalent at levels two and three. One member of staff is currently attending an NVQ 3 training programme. The setting receives support from a teacher mentor from the Early Education and Childcare Partnership [EYDCP], and attends cluster group meetings with other local pre-schools and schools. Support and advice is also received from the Area Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

The nursery follows the Margaret McMillan education system, which focuses on the use of the outdoor environment to promote learning. Children have close contact with a variety of plantlife and animals, and can access the adjacent SSSI woodland and common.

How good is the Day Care?

Heather Rabbit Nursery provides good quality care for children. Staff are mainly all well qualified and experienced and there is a firm commitment to ongoing professional training. New members of staff are well supported and clear guidance is given to student placements. There is an effective operational plan. Staff organise space well to meet children's needs and the outdoor environment is viewed as an

extension of the playroom so that children are able to explore in the natural world. Staff maintain high quality documentation, although some minor revision is required.

The nursery undertakes regular ongoing risk assessments to ensure that children are kept safe, and close supervision by staff is given at all times. Staff are vigilant about children's health, and children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practices such as regular hand washing. Six staff members are suitably first aid trained. Children are provided with a regular supply of drinks and a varied menu of nutritious snacks, and the nursery aims to meet any special dietary requirements. All children are valued and included in all activities. There are effective procedures to make staff aware of child protection issues.

Children are excited, enthusiastic and curious. Staff plan and provide a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities to help children to make good progress in all areas of learning. Children are confident and self assured, and they show independence in the environment. They are sociable and chat readily to peers and adults. Children behave well and show consideration for others. They respond positively to the praise and encouragement which they receive from staff.

There is a good partnership with parents, who receive quality information about the nursery and their children's activities and achievements. Children are looked after according to their parent's wishes, and the nursery promotes an effective two-way communication between school and home which benefits children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Children enjoy a stimulating range and balance of activities which supports their language, mathematical thinking, imagination and creativity. The nursery places particular emphasis on the outdoor environment, and children learn about a range of different animals at first hand, or explore in 'Mr MacGregor's Garden' using all their senses.
- Children are independent and confident. They move comfortably between the indoor and outdoor environments, and make decisions about what they want to do. Warm relationships are forged. Staff are interested in what children do and say; they talk and listen to them, respond to children's questions and interests and offer lots of praise and encouragement to promote self esteem.
- The nursery is well organised and managed. The owner has a clear vision of the nursery's aims in respect of children's care and learning, and she involves and guides her staff appropriately. Staff are mutually supportive and morale is high. Regular staff meetings are held to monitor the quality of the provision. Staff provide a bright and welcoming environment.
- There is an effective partnership with parents. Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress through an informal exchange of information and through contributions to their child's 'travelling scrapbook', which contains

pieces of work, photographs, achievement stickers and staff observations.

- Staff are vigilant about children's safety and health. The nursery is monitored constantly to ensure, for example, that the doors are checked and the outdoor space remains securely fenced. Staff ensure that children's lunch boxes are stored away from direct sunlight, and parents are asked to ensure that a cool pack is supplied.
- Children enjoy regular drinks and a varied nutritious 'rolling menu' of snacks which includes fresh and dried fruit, vegetables, breadsticks, crackers, sandwiches, biscuits and home made cakes.

What needs to be improved?

- documentation, to ensure that fire drills are recorded in the attendance register and that the complaints procedure includes Ofsted's address in addition to the telephone number.

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	Ensure details of fire drills are recorded in the attendance register.
12	Ensure the Complaints Procedure provides parents with details of Ofsted's address in addition to the telephone number.

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.