



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY242106

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 12/10/2004
Inspector Name Paula Jane Hayhow

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Full Day Care
Setting Name St Christophers Care Club
Setting Address Gorham Way
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU5 4NJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of St Christophers Care Club

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name St Christophers Care Club
Address Gorham Way
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU5 4NJ

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

St. Christopher's Care Club opened in 2001.

It operates from St. Christopher's Lower School in Dunstable. The group has use of a purpose-built facility which contains a large play room, a kitchen and toilets. There are two fully enclosed outdoor play areas for the children.

There are currently 74 children on roll. The admissions policy states children can attend from the age of three to eleven years. The setting currently supports three children who have special needs and four children who have English is an additional language.

The group incorporates a breakfast club, a pre-school, lunch club, holiday play scheme and after school sessions. The club offers wrap around care. It is open each weekday throughout the year. It closes on statutory holidays only. Opening hours are from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Children can attend for a variety of sessions. The group is open to all children attending the school or their siblings. The holiday play scheme is also open to the surrounding community.

There are five permanent staff members who work with the children. One staff member has an early years qualification to NVQ level 3 and three staff members are qualified to NVQ level 2. There are currently two staff members working towards a relevant child care qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

St Christopher's Care Club provides good quality care for children.

They are well organised and have practical plans, enabling them to make the best use of staff skills, resources and the space available. This means they are able to offer children a variety of activities that are both stimulating and good fun. There is a wide range of toys and resources, with staff using their experience and knowledge to make sure that all children can participate in the opportunities offered and gain as much as they can, on both an educational and social level. Staff show a genuine interest in all the children, spending time getting to know them and understanding their needs and individual personalities.

Well-documented policies and procedures and good staff knowledge of child care

mean they always act in the best interests of the children. There are clear and consistent strategies for managing behaviour and children are aware of what is expected of them. They respond well to the staff and show a good level of care and understanding for each other. Their health and safety are given a high priority and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure the continuing safety of both staff and children.

Staff have good relationships with parents, demonstrating their sensitivity and providing support on a range of issues. Parents are given clear information about the club in a handbook and then kept up to date through regular reports, notice boards, information and discussions with staff.

Most paperwork is in place and up to date so that the needs of individual children can be met. Staff are well supervised and all have further training commitments. This creates a positive atmosphere, enhancing the care provided for the children. The staff have a commitment to furthering the development of the pre-school and extending the opportunities and care they offer and are actively involved in the future actions documented within the club's Development Plan.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The group was asked at the previous inspection to abide by any recommendations from the Fire Officer's report.

The group have installed linked smoke detectors as recommended by the fire report.

What is being done well?

- There is clear, practical planning of all activities and this is linked to the six areas of learning, the interests and hobbies of all children attending and ensures that they can make progress in all areas.
- There is good staff interaction with the children, with appropriate use of open questions, encouraging children to extend their vocabulary, to think further and develop their ideas. Staff take time to find out about individual children, starting with a child registration form on entry. They are aware of individual children's needs and respond quickly and appropriately to any situations. It was observed that the children were already forming good relationships with both staff and other children.
- Children are offered a good range of resources to promote confident learning and establishing skills. Attention has also been paid to ensuring that the resources are challenging and stimulating for the children, that they extend the children's knowledge and develop a wider range of ideas within their play.
- Staff are aware of individual dietary needs and the snacks offered are nutritious and healthy. The meals are wholesome and varied, thus promoting children's growth and development.
- The children's behaviour is good due to a clear, thorough and consistent behaviour management policy. Staff are confident in their approach and

encourage children and parents to understand what is expected of them.

- Staff have a good understanding of children's needs. This is demonstrated in their daily interactions with the children and in their written observations. Staff have attended additional training and all work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure that children's needs are met and they feel included.

What needs to be improved?

- revise some policies and procedures e.g. risk assessment, complaints and behaviour management policy
- inform Ofsted of staff details.

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
1	ensure Ofsted is informed of all staff working in the facility e.g. by DC2
6	provide evidence of how the group will regularly carry out a risk assessment of the premises e.g. daily risk assessment sheet
11	ensure there is a statement regarding bullying which gives clear guidance on how the situation will be handled
12	ensure the complaints policy includes the regulator's details e.g. address and 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.