



Office for Standards  
in Education

## DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 140883

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 01/03/2004  
Inspector Name Sonjia Nicholson

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care  
Setting Name Watermead Cygnets Playgroup  
Setting Address Watermead Village Hall  
The Piazza  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP19 0FU

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Watermead Cygnets Playgroup

### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Watermead Cygnets Playgroup  
Address 5 Stork Close  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP19 0UA

## 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

Watermead Cygnets Playgroup opened in 1991. It is managed by a committee and operates from the Community Centre in Watermead, on the outskirts of Aylesbury. The playgroup serves children living in Watermead and Aylesbury.

There are currently 29 children from two and a half to four and a half years on roll. This includes 16 funded three-year-olds and 5 funded four-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting is currently supporting a number of children who speak English as an additional language but there are no children attending who have been identified as having special needs.

The group opens four days a week during school term times. Sessions are from 09:15 until 11:45.

Six staff work with the children. Over half the staff have early years qualifications to level 2 or 3. Two staff are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and is a member of Pre-School Learning Alliance.

### How good is the Day Care?

Watermead Cygnets Playgroup provides good quality care for children. Staff create a welcoming, stimulating environment for children and parents. Staff are aware of the hazards to children's safety and take steps to minimise the risks through regular checks and fire drills, however, details of these are not recorded. The premises are clean and well-maintained; staff follow good hygiene practices during all aspects of their work. Staff encourage children to learn good personal hygiene habits.

Staff promote healthy eating through a range of activities and first hand experiences; they involve children in the preparation of nutritious food and drinks for snack time. Staff have a good understanding of their role in the protection of children. All areas to promote children's good health have been addressed.

Staff encourage children to learn through play; the group is well-resourced with a range of good quality toys and equipment to support this. Staff establish good relationships with children; they recognise children as individuals and plan activities accordingly. Children are busy and occupied resulting in few behavioural incidents.

Staff work well together as a team and the lead practitioner provides effective leadership.

Staff work in partnership with parents; they provide a wide range of information detailing all aspects of the service offered. Staff monitor children's progress closely through regular observations and completion of records of achievements; these are shared with parents during home visits. All documentation is professionally maintained; it is clearly presented, accurately completed and stored confidentially. Most parental consents are in place.

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

Not applicable.

#### **What is being done well?**

- Staff create an environment that positively recognises differences. There is a diverse range of toys and resources reflecting positive images; activities are planned to incorporate festivals and experiences that promote children's understanding of the world and their place in it. Staff recognise children as individuals and meet their differing needs; they give high priority to promoting children's self-esteem, independence and confidence.
- The lead practitioner is an excellent role model for staff; she is enthusiastic in her implementation of the curriculum, knowledgeable about childcare and very committed to the group. Staff work very well together as a team and a good rapport is evident. They successfully support one another during the session and have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities. Staff value training and frequently update their knowledge and skills by attending early years courses and in-house training.
- Staff create a relaxed, fun environment for children. They plan a vast range of interesting and stimulating activities linked to themes that cover all areas of play and learning. Children eagerly participate in planned activities and make choices about their own play. Staff develop very good relationships with children; they spend time talking, listening and helping them to learn. Staff understand the value of play and are actively involved in all aspects of children's care and learning. Children are very familiar with the established daily routine in place, which adds to their sense of security.
- Staff manage children's behaviour in consistent and age-appropriate ways. There are clear boundaries for behaviour in place which ensures children have a good understanding of what is expected of them. Staff place a strong emphasis on developing children's social skills so they learn to care for and co-operate with one another. Children's artwork is celebrated through a range of high quality displays.

#### **An aspect of outstanding practice:**

Staff provide parents with a wealth of information about the service provided, including information about the Early Learning Goals; photographs are used

extensively to illustrate how this is achieved. Parents have access to a comprehensive range of policies and procedures covering all aspects of children's care; new parents receive an entry pack to ensure a smooth transition for children from home to playgroup. Communication with parents is effective. Parents are encouraged to help in the group so they gain further knowledge and understanding of the aims and objectives; clear written guidance is provided for all parents about their role. Newsletters are produced regularly to ensure parents are kept informed; staff offer daily verbal feedback about children's progress and complete detailed observation and assessment records of their development. Staff set up home visits for all parents to share these records. (Standard 12)

#### **What needs to be improved?**

- documentation, to ensure parental consent is obtained for the seeking of any necessary medical treatment or advice and details of fire drills and risk assessments that are currently carried out are recorded.

#### **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
7	Obtain written parental consent for the seeking of any necessary emergency treatment or medical advice.

## **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.*