



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY279966

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 04/11/2004
Inspector Name Anneliese Fox-Jones

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Children 1st
Setting Address St Peters School
Cottonmill Lane
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 1HL

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Children 1st
Address St Peters School
Cottonmill Lane
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 1HL

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

Children 1st opened in 2004. It runs from St Peter's School and operates from the nursery classroom. The premises comprises of a main room with three additional adjoining rooms for various play experiences, as well as use of the school hall and nursery playground. The group serves the local area.

There are currently 41 children on roll from 2 years 9 months to 4 years. This includes 8 funded 3 year-olds and 2 funded four year-olds. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting supports a small number of children who have special needs and English as an additional language.

The group opens five days a week during term time only. Sessions for the lunch club are from 11:45 until 12:45 and the afternoon session from 12:45 until 15:15.

Three full time and one part time staff work with the children. Three of the staff have early years qualifications to a level 3 or above. The setting receives support from the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PSLA) and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. (EYDCP)

How good is the Day Care?

Children 1st provide satisfactory care for children. They offer a welcoming, stimulating and friendly environment where all children are valued and included. Staff are effectively qualified to a good standard, which is evident in the quality of care and learning opportunities provided. However, staff are unaware of the regulation to inform Ofsted of any significant changes, regarding the use of premises and new staff.

Good use is made of the space with the children free to move around the designated areas for; art, imaginative play, quiet, relaxing book or computer room, construction and messy play. The range of resources and activities are fun, interesting and regularly rotated to offer variety. Staff are on hand to offer support when necessary and spend quality time interacting with the children. Staff know the children well and encourage suitable settling in procedures. They effectively use a 'home information' questionnaire to gather relevant information regarding children's individual needs, abilities and preferences.

Children are busy and engaged in different areas of activity. Staff give praise and

encouragement and allow the children to work at their own pace. There are no effective procedures in place to record any incidents or concerns. Healthy and varied snacks are provided, which also promote effective social occasions for the children to sit and talk together. Most aspects of health and safety are in place, with some issues identified for improvement.

Staff maintain effective relationships with parents and carers. They communicate on a regular basis, both verbally and through the use of the home/setting books. Feedback from parents is positive. The group maintains the necessary documentation for the effective management of the provision. Comprehensive policies are easily accessible and displayed for parent's perusal.

What has improved since the last inspection?

N/A

What is being done well?

- The staff's relationship and interaction with the children is excellent. The group provide a good range of toys and resources that are stimulating and meet the children's interests. Children are happy, busy and confident. Staff are good role models who engage with the children and encourage their learning and development.
- Children are supported by caring and sensitive staff who provide praise and encouragement throughout the session, thus promoting the children's self-esteem and independence skills. Staff know the children well and have effective procedures in place in gathering individual information and meeting the children's needs.
- Parents universally praise the group. Staff build effective relationships with parents and keep them well informed about their child's progress both verbally and through the use of Home/Setting profiles, which also actively encourages parents involvement and effective two-way sharing of information.

What needs to be improved?

- awareness of informing Ofsted of any relevant changes
- the arrangements for risk assessments
- hygiene, regarding hand washing, food preparation and snacktime
- the procedures for recording any incidents or concerns.

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 must take the following actions by the date shown

Std	Action	Date
1	Ensure Ofsted is informed of relevant changes and matters, this refers to any change in areas used and new staff.	19/11/2004
6	Conduct and review risk assessments on the premises, identifying actions to be taken to minimise any identified hazards.	19/11/2004

The Registered Person should have regard to the following recommendations by the time of the next inspection

Std	Recommendation
7	Ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing and snack times.
7	Seek the advice of environmental health with regards to cooking activities and the preparation of food around the one sink area.
13	Devise and implement a system to record any incidents or concerns that you may have.

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.