



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY270171

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 11/01/2005
Inspector Name Rosemary Moore

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Little Fishes Pre School
Setting Address Lodge Farm Community Centre
Off Crestwood Road
Lings
Northamptonshire
NN3 8JJ

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Store House Community Trust 292963

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Store House Community Trust
Address C/o 68 Ellfield Court
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 8LS

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

Little Fishes pre-school group opened in 1987, moving to these premises in 2003. It operates from Lodge Farm Community Centre, Lings, Northampton and serves the local community.

The pre-school is registered to care for 26 children and there are currently 45 children from 2 to 5 years on the register. This includes 21 funded three-year olds and 5 funded four-year olds. Children attend a variety of morning or afternoon sessions. Four children have special educational needs and the group supports two children who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during term time. Sessions are from 09:30 until 12:00 and 12:45 to 15:15. There are seven part-time staff who work with the children, five have early years qualifications and two are currently on training programmes.

The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

How good is the Day Care?

Little Fishes Pre-school provides satisfactory care for children. It offers a warm and welcoming childcare experience where children learn through play. The manager ensures all staff are qualified and deployed effectively. Effective use is made of space, resources and equipment enabling children to develop their play and learning. Most policies and procedures are in place to support the safety, care and wellbeing of children.

Staff generally take steps to promote safety by ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent accidents. Staff have knowledge of child protection procedures, however, information contained in the policy is limited. Health and hygiene practices are maintained in order to prevent the spread of infection; children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through daily routines. Nutritious meals, snacks and drinks are provided, this promotes children's health and development.

Staff provide a good range of activities to help children progress in all areas of their development. They build on children's natural curiosity as learners and develop their interests. Staff form positive relationships with the children, encouraging them to

become confident, independent and develop their self-esteem. They recognise the children as individuals and meet their differing needs well, including those of children with special needs. All children have access to the resources. Behaviour is managed effectively within the setting.

Staff maintain a very good working partnership with parents and carers in order to meet the needs of the children. They understand the importance of settling children, supporting parents and exchanging information regularly. This ensures that parental wishes are respected and the individual needs of children are met.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not Applicable

What is being done well?

- Staff ensure that children with special needs attending the pre school have access, alongside their peers, to facilities, activities and play opportunities provided whenever reasonable, in order to promote their welfare and development.
- Staff work in partnership with parents and carers in order to meet the needs of the children. They visit children and parents in their homes prior to attending sessions, when information is exchanged. This forms part of the system for settling children into the group. Staff send newsletters and information about the pre-school, with all policies and procedures available to parents. This provides staff with detailed information about the children and ensures that parental wishes are respected and the individual needs of children are met.

What needs to be improved?

- safety, by ensuring that children can play safely outside
- documentation, by ensuring that the child protection policy includes procedures if an allegation is made against a member of staff, and the complaints procedure includes details of the regulator.

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.)

Since the last inspection Ofsted have not received any complaints about this provider.

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

Std	Recommendation
13	Ensure that the child protection procedure complies with local Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures.
6	Ensure that children can play safely outside.
11	Make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint, which includes details of the regulator, Ofsted.

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.