



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY239970

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 22/12/2003
Inspector Name Ann Field

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care
Setting Name Explore Learning Centre
Setting Address Maxwell Road
Beaconsfield
Buckinghamshire
HP9 1QH

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name Explore Learning Ltd 4117281

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Explore Learning Ltd
Address 3rd Floor
74 North Street
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4AW

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

The Explore Learning Centre opened in July 2002. It operates from premises in Sainsbury's Supermarket in Beaconsfield. The club runs on a membership basis and children attend for a 75-minute session twice a week. They follow the 'SuccessMaker' computer based curriculum interactive educational tool.

The centre opens seven days a week all year round. Weekdays during the school term time they are open from 14:30 until 20:00 and in the holidays from 10:00 until 18:00. The centre opens Saturdays from 10:00 until 18:00 and Sundays from 10:00 until 16:00.

Four full time staff work with the children and up to 16 staff are available on a part time basis. They have a variety of early years qualifications and experiences.

How good is the Day Care?

Explore Learning provides good quality care for children. They offer a warm and welcoming environment. All aspects of the provision are well organised. The children appear very happy and settled and have made good relationships. They respond positively to staff and behave well.

The staff have a good understanding of safety issues and all areas for promoting children's good health have been addressed, but staff first aid certificates are not readily available. The children are helped to learn to have respect for each other. They work quietly at their individual programme and are given plenty of praise and encouragement. The staff ensure children with special needs are fully included.

Staff provide a range of varied computer activities through the learning programme to help children improve their literacy and numeracy skills. The staff work well as a team; they plan practical activities for the children based on a monthly theme.

There is a very good partnership with parents and carers; they are very happy with the provision. Parents are kept well informed about their child's progress with regular conferences and they have easy access to written records. All the relevant paperwork is in place.

What has improved since the last inspection?

At the last inspection the setting agreed to provide details of staff qualifications. These are now available.

What is being done well?

- The children are interested in the programmes designed for them; they are well motivated and eager to achieve. There is good adult interaction with a high ratio of staff to children. The children take part in a variety of craft activities once they have completed their educational programme. The company have equipped the room well; good use is made of the space to provide a relaxed but stimulating environment.
- The children are very well behaved; they are given plenty of praise and encouragement and there is an emphasis on rewards for achievements. The staff are skilful in managing the children's behaviour and in helping them to develop their confidence.
- The staff keep the parents well informed about their child's progress. Regular parental conferences are held to feedback on achievements and discuss the next stage of the programme. Parents are extremely pleased with the service provided. The documentation is of a high standard and the centre has some comprehensive well-written policies.
- The staff are well qualified to work with the children on the devised computer programmes. The children are given plenty of individual attention and their progress is carefully monitored.

What needs to be improved?

- records, to ensure that the staff's first aid certificates are available on site.

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	Ensure staff first aid certificates are available on site

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.