



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN 227266

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date 21/10/2004
Inspector Name Mary Kelly

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type Out of School Day Care, Creche Day Care, Sessional Day Care
Setting Name Allens Croft Early Years Centre
Setting Address Allens Croft Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham
WEST MIDLANDS
B14 6RP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name The Committee of Allens Croft Early Years Centre 1090973

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name Allens Croft Early Years Centre
Address Allens Croft Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham
West Midlands
B14 6RP

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

Allens Croft Early Years Centre opened in 1997. It operates from 3 rooms in the under 3's unit and is attached to Allens Croft Nursery School in Kings Heath, Birmingham. The early years centre serves the local community.

There are currently 47 children from two to three and a half years on roll. This includes one funded three year old. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The setting currently supports a number of children with special needs, and who speak English as an additional language.

The group opens 5 days a week during term times. Sessions are from 09:15 to 11:30 and 12:15 until 14:45, and after school service operates Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 09.00 and 15.00 to 17.00.

There are nine part time staff who work with the children. Over half of the staff have an early years qualifications to NVQ level 2 and above. There are two staff who are currently working towards a recognised early years qualification. The setting receives support from a teacher mentor from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

How good is the Day Care?

Allens Croft Early Years Centre provides good care for children.

The nursery is well managed and staff have good interaction with each other. There are excellent equipment and resources which are in good condition and are freely accessible to the children at their level. Staff development is encouraged and a good induction and appraisal system are in place. All documentation is in place, and is well organised and presented.

Safety is promoted as part of regular risk assessments. Fire procedures are clear and pointed out to any visitors to the setting. Staff promote good health and hygiene practices and children's personal hygiene is part of the daily routine. Staff liaise with parents to ensure individual dietary needs are met, snacks and drinks offered are healthy. Staff offer many resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice. Information is exchanged with the parents regarding child protection, and staff are aware of their responsibilities in this area.

Staff plan an excellent, and varied range of activities that children are able to make

their own through experimentation. They extend the children's interests both indoors and outdoors. Staff promote and extend children's learning by constantly praising and encouraging. Children's behaviour is exceptional.

Partnership with parents is good. Staff members talk to parents daily and parents are aware that they can access their children's information at any time. Parents stated that their children enjoyed coming to the setting

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not Applicable.

What is being done well?

- Staff plan and provide an excellent choice of activities that children can access freely. Children are very well occupied for the session and move freely around the building and outside confidently.
- Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming environment, which staff ensure is inviting for children. Children and parents are greeted by staff for all sessions.
- Regular risk assessments are in place to ensure that children learn in a safe and secure environment.
- Good systems are in place to identify and support children with special needs and work in conjunction with outside agencies to benefit the children.
- Staff have a positive approach in managing children's behaviour. Children are frequently praised and encouraged and strategies used are sensitive and age appropriate.
- Good relationships in place with parents and formal and informal communication opportunities are given.
- All documentation in place is well organised, presented and children's development records are shared with parents.

An aspect of outstanding practice:

In standard 3, staff promoted children's learning. One child found worms outside, he showed others and even let me hold them. Staff gave him opportunities to draw them while observing them. He was offered a container for them and he brought them in to show all the children. Staff gave him opportunities to photograph the worms himself and they also took photos. When the child and others (who were now interested) came inside the staff member asked if they would like to find out more on the worms and what they ate and how they lived. They all went to the book area and accessed more information from reference books.

What needs to be improved?

- details for parents to contact the regulator need to be updated.

Outcome of the inspection
Good

CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION
<i>All registered persons must comply with all conditions of registration included on his/her certificate of registration.</i>
<i>As a result of this inspection conditions of registration have been imposed / varied / removed and a new certificate of registration will be issued.</i>

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
12	Ensure that parents are provided with the regulators(Ofsted)details in the event of a complaint.

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.