



Office for Standards
in Education

DAY CARE INSPECTION REPORT

URN EY259694

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/11/2004
Inspector Name	Peter, Stuart Woodhouse

SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Sessional Day Care
Setting Name	Stepping Stones 2 Pre-School
Setting Address	St. Annes Road Denton Manchester Lancashire M34 3BP

REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	Mrs Lorraine Arnold
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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

Stepping Stones 2 Pre School operates from a single story pre fabricated building in the St Anne's road area of Denton.

The provision is situated within easy access to the main road leading to the local town and motorway links.

The group have sole use of the building, which is a single room with toilet and kitchen facilities situated at one end of the building.

A safe and secure grassed outdoor play area is also available for use to the side and rear of the building.

The pre-school group's day to day organisation is the responsibility of the two owners, who both hold level three qualifications. Other staff, who also hold appropriate qualifications, are available should the need arise.

All staff attend regular training with Tameside early years.

Stepping Stones 2 Pre-School, has been registered since February 2003 and is registered to provide care for 16 children. The provision is open from 09:30 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 14:30, Monday to Friday, term time only.

Children may only attend a maximum of five sessions per week.

Children with special needs attend the group and are supported by the designated Special Educational Needs co-coordinator within the staff group.

The group are in receipt of funding for three and four year olds.

How good is the Day Care?

Stepping Stones 2 Pre-school provides good care for children.

All staff give high priority to ensure children are safe, both inside and outside the premises by undertaking regular risk assessments. Staff work well together and offer a wide range of experiences for children in a caring and consistent approach. They attend regular training, appropriate to the ages of children.

The group demonstrate a good approach to behaviour management through their child centred, age appropriate, methods.

The group provides weekly play plans which are displayed for parents and themed art/craft activities linked to festivals and seasons throughout the year. These offer children a wide variety of experiences, which encourage children's thinking and research.

A good range of play and learning equipment is available. This is suitable to stimulate and challenge children of all ages. Staff organise an interesting programme of activities for children. All play and learning equipment are of good quality and support children's imagination and creativity.

Equipment is changed regularly throughout the session to ensure children's development and interest is maintained. A good selection of toys and equipment are available, which reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. All children are encouraged and educated in healthy eating and good hygiene practices through their themed activities.

The staff have a good working partnership with parents, which was evidenced from the many positive comments on the parental questionnaires returned and the parents spoken to on the day of inspection. The playgroup keeps them up to date and aware of all activities through regular information sharing, the notice board and regular newsletters. All parents are made aware of the groups very comprehensive policies and procedures. The group need to ensure all parents are aware of the procedure to make a complaint.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable.

What is being done well?

- Children have access to a wide range of activities in a well set out and welcoming environment.
- Children are offered a good and varied selection of play which stimulates and develops the children's knowledge and confidence.
- The staff recognises the need to challenge children's imagination by offering a selection of stimulating equipment, projects and themes.
- All children are encouraged and educated in healthy eating, good health and hygiene.
- The group use a child centred approach to encourage good behaviour.
- Good clear policies and procedures are in place and understood by staff and parents.

What needs to be improved?

- Information for parents to make a complaint.

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.)

There are no complaints to report.

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
12	Ensure parents are aware of how to make 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.